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Tuesday, August 3, 2010

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

FLOTILLA PROBE

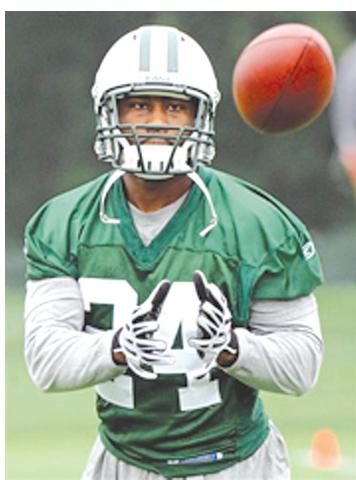


In this Aug. 1, 2010 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in his Jerusalem office. Israel announced Monday it will take part in a U.N. investigation into the deadly Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla last spring, in a departure from its traditional mistrust of the world body.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

CORNER PIECE



In this June 14, 2010, file photo, New York Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis prepares to catch the ball during NFL football minicamp in Florham Park, N.J. Revis is holding out from training camp, locked in a contract dispute with the team. Revis did not report with the rest of the teammates Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, as they arrived for the start of the camp.

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Tuesday, August 3, 2010



In This June 29, 2010 photo, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard "Ross" Coffman, commander of the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, left, talks to a village sheik in al-Bailona, Nineveh province, after an early morning search last month with Iraqi army troops for bombing suspects came up empty.

Associated Press

Obama salutes promised end of U.S. combat in Iraq

Read Page 3

NY jury convicts 2 in JFK plot

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A former member of Guyana's parliament and another man were convicted Monday of plotting to blow up jet fuel tanks at John F. Kennedy International Airport, a plan that authorities said was meant to outdo the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and avenge perceived U.S. oppression of Muslims around the world.

Russell Defreitas, a former JFK cargo handler, and Abdul Kadir, once a member of Guyana's parliament, were convicted of multiple conspiracy charges. Kadir was acquitted of one charge, surveillance of mass transportation.

The Brooklyn federal court jury deliberated about five days.

Defreitas, a 66-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen from Guyana, and Kadir, 58, were arrested in 2007 after an informant infiltrated the plot and recorded them discussing it.

Prosecutors alleged that Defreitas and Kadir wanted to kill thousands of people and cripple the American economy by using explosives to blow up the fuel tanks and the underground pipelines that run through an adjacent Queens neighborhood. Authorities say the men sought the help of militant Muslims, including an al-Qaida operative, in Guyana.

Continued on Page 5

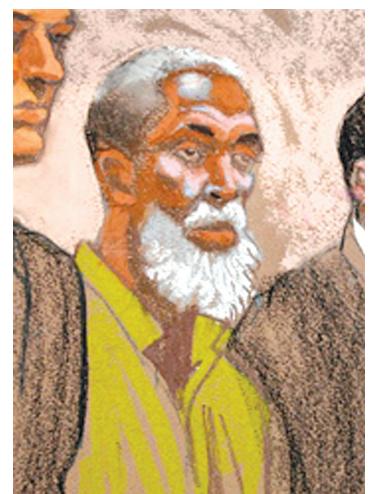


This undated file photo provided by Verizon Wireless shows the BlackBerry Pearl smart phone. The United Arab Emirates said Sunday Aug. 1, 2010 it plans to block some messaging and web services on BlackBerry smart phones beginning in October. UAE authorities said last week BlackBerry services could pose a threat to national security.

Associated Press

UAE: BlackBerry crackdown will affect visitors too

Read Page 6



This June 2, 2007 file courtroom sketch shows Russell Defreitas, at his arraignment at federal court in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

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Geithner pledges quick action on new financial law



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner speaks at a conference on financial reform Monday, Aug. 2, 2010 at New York University's Stern School of Business in New York.

Associated Press

**EMILY FREDRIX
MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner pledged on Monday to move with speed to implement the biggest overhaul of the financial system since the Great Depression. He said

that a top priority will be simplifying the complicated forms that consumers have to fill out to get credit cards, auto loans and mortgages.

"We will move as quickly as possible to bring clarity to the new rules of finance," Geithner said in a speech to Wall Street executives and students at

New York University's Stern School of Business. "The rule writing process traditionally has moved at a frustrating, glacial pace. We must change that."

Geithner said that officials from all the government agencies involved in financial reform including Treasury, the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission and various banking regulators, will set target deadlines for writing the new rules. He said that the Financial Stability Oversight Council, the new panel that will oversee the process, will develop an integrated road map for implementing the overhaul at its first meeting in September.

Geithner's speech Monday was the opening salvo in what the administration says will be an extensive outreach effort to educate the public about the new law, which was passed by Congress and signed into law

by President Barack Obama last month.

"We want to move quickly to give consumers simpler disclosures for credit cards, auto loans and mortgages so that they can make better choices, borrow more responsibly and compare costs and services," Geithner said. He said that one of the first things that will be done in this area will be to get input from financial firms and consumer advocates on how to combine the existing two separate and inconsistent federal mortgage disclosure forms into one new, easy-to-understand federal disclosure form.

Geithner said another top priority will be to move forward with the overhaul of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, saying the administration will meet the target set in the overhaul law of presenting Congress with a plan early next year. Fannie and Freddie own or

guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages, or nearly 31 million home loans worth more than \$5 trillion. The government took over both institutions in September 2008 when they came close to collapse under the weight of rising mortgage defaults.

Republicans were highly critical that the administration did not include significant reforms of Fannie and Freddie in the overhaul legislation. Geithner said the administration will address the problem, starting with a Treasury-sponsored conference on the issue on Aug. 17. Geithner said the information gained at that conference would help the administration develop significant changes to how Fannie and Freddie operate.

"The system we have today is not tenable for the future," Geithner said during a question-and-answer session. "We are going to have to bring about quite dramatic reforms." □



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Obama salutes promised end of U.S. combat in Iraq

JENNIFER LOVEN

JULIE PACE

Associated Press Writers

ATLANTA (AP) — Nearing a milestone in the long and divisive Iraq war, President Barack Obama on Monday hailed this month's planned withdrawal of all U.S. combat troops — "as promised and on schedule" — as a major success despite deep doubts about the Iraqis' ability to police and govern their country.

Portraying the end of America's combat role in the 7-year war as a personal promise kept, Obama said Iraq will have 90,000 fewer U.S. troops by September than when he took office — a steady homeward flow he called "a season of homecomings." But there could still be more fighting involving U.S. forces.

"The hard truth is we have not seen the end of American sacrifice in Iraq," the president said in a speech to the national convention of the Disabled American Veterans. "But make no mistake, our commitment in Iraq is changing — from a military effort led by our troops to a civilian effort led by our diplomats."

A transitional force of 50,000 troops will remain, down from the peak of 170,000 in 2007. Their mission will be to train and advise Iraqi security forces, protect U.S. civilians, manage the chain of supplies and equipment out of Iraq and conduct counterterrorism operations.

Those soldiers and Marines will remain in harm's way and will be likely to engage at times in some form of fighting. Iraqi commanders

will be able to ask the U.S. for front-line help.

All American troops are to leave Iraq by the end of next year, as mandated under an agreement negotiated before Obama took office, between the Iraqis and President George W. Bush.

Obama's speech Monday was the first of many, with appearances planned throughout the month by the president, Vice President Joe Biden and other administration officials. The schedule reflects a White House eager, with pivotal congressional elections approaching, for achievements to tout, especially in areas with the emotional significance of the Iraq war.

Obama's campaign pledge to oversee a speedy conclusion to the U.S. fighting was the promise that most defined his presidential campaign, and it brought him significant support.

Actually, while running for the White House, he said he would remove one or two brigades a month from Iraq to achieve an end to combat operations within 16 months of taking office. Instead, shortly after becoming president, Obama settled on a slower plan, to remove all combat troops within 19 months, and not at the pace of one brigade per month but on a more backloaded timetable.

Those were concessions to the military that disappointed Obama's anti-war base of support.

Obama's celebratory rhetoric on Monday brushed past some of the more grim realities in today's Iraq.

Leaders there remain at a

political impasse that has prevented the formation of a new government for the nearly five months since parliamentary elections did not produce a clear winner.

In a reminder of Iraq's fragility, two bombings and a drive-by shooting killed eight people there Monday just hours before Obama spoke. With such attacks remaining a daily occurrence, especially in Baghdad, questions persist about the readiness of Iraqi security forces to take over for the Americans and hold back insurgents. Obama said, "Violence in Iraq continues to be near the lowest it's been in years," but figures released by Iraqi authorities over the weekend — dismissed by the U.S. military as too high — showed July to be the deadliest month for Iraqis in more than two years.

Frustration over the political deadlock has come on top of widespread Iraqi anger over the government's failure to improve basic services such as electricity and drinking water.

With billions of dollars already spent to improve electricity since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, households in Baghdad continue to suffer lengthy power outages. That's a particularly sore subject with Iraqis since the summer months routinely see 115-degree days and buying electricity from privately owned neighborhood generators is beyond the reach of many.

Some longtime Iraq observers worry that the country's sectarian divisions could widen in the months ahead.

"Much of the violence has occurred because there is no



President Barack Obama speaks to the Disable American Veterans, in Atlanta, Monday, Aug. 2, 2010. DAV National Commander Roberto Barrera listens at left.

Associated Press

government, because nobody knows what the future is," said Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies who has periodically advised top U.S. commanders in Baghdad. However, military officials say that neither

Iraqi political turmoil nor the continuing violence will change the departure plan. Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Iraq last week and came away confident that the switch to a fully advisory role can occur as planned, his spokesman said Monday. □



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In this Oct. 28, 2009 file photo, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington. A House investigative panel has decided to charge Rep. Maxine Waters of California with ethics violations, raising the possibility of a second trial this fall. People familiar with the investigation, who were not authorized to be quoted, said Friday July 30, 2010 the charges could be filed next week.

Associated Press

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Obama's Democrats slammed again by ethics finding

By LARRY MARGASAK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — California Democrat Maxine Waters faces a House trial this fall on three charges of ethical wrongdoing, setting the stage for a second election-season public airing of ethics problems for a longtime Democratic lawmaker.

The charges focus on whether Waters broke the rules in requesting federal help for a bank where her husband owned stock and had served on the board of directors. She denied the charges Monday.

Persons familiar with the case said Waters is accused of violating:

A rule that House members may not exert improper influence that results in a personal benefit.

The government employees' ethics code, which prohibits granting or accepting special favors, for the employee or family members, that could be viewed as influencing official actions.

A rule that members' conduct must reflect creditably on the House.

The persons were not authorized to be quoted by name on allegations not yet made public.

The House ethics committee's announcement comes just days after it outlined 13 charges against Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., including failing to disclose assets and income, delayed payment of federal taxes and improper use of a subsidized New York apartment for his campaign office.

Rangel, the former House Ways and Means Committee chairman who has served for 40 years, faces a trial in the fall.

Democrats face certain losses in the congressional elections, the first midterms for President Barack Obama, and the high-profile trials could further damage the party's political standing.

Republicans quickly jumped on the latest news. The GOP's House campaign committee released a statement with the headline: "The Dirty Details: Ethics Office Reveals Waters Charges. Panel Has 'Substantial Reason to Believe' Dems Have Another Ethics Problem on Their Hands."

Waters is a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, which handled the recent rewrite of legislation that regulates financial institutions and has strong protections for consumers.

Rangel stepped aside in March as the chief

House tax writer following a negative report on his conduct in a separate ethics case. In addition to taxes, his committee handles trade, portions of health care reform, Medicare and Social Security.

The charges against Waters were filed July 28 by a four-member investigative panel, but not announced until Monday. An eight-member subcommittee of four Democrats and four Republicans will now conduct the Waters trial. The specifics of the allegations won't be made public until the panel — four Democrats and four Republicans — hold its still-unscheduled organizational meeting.

Brendan Daly, spokesman for Speaker Nancy Pelosi commented, "As we have said in the past about the process, ethics proceedings are a result of a bipartisan, confidential and independent process in the House."

In a statement, Waters said, "I have not violated any House rules. Therefore, I simply will not be forced to admit to something I did not do and instead have chosen to respond to charges made by the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in a public hearing."

The ethics committee also released a year-old report by the Office of Congressional Ethics — a separate body of non-lawmakers that conducts a preliminary investigation.

That report said that in September 2008, Waters asked then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to have Treasury officials meet representatives from the National Bankers Association, a trade group representing minority-owned and women-owned banks.

At a meeting and subsequent follow-up activity through Waters' office, the discussion centered on OneUnited Bank.

Waters' husband, Sidney Williams, had been a board member of OneUnited from 2004 through April 21, 2008, according to the ethics report. Her 2008 financial disclosure report said Williams had two investments in OneUnited valued between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

The report said Waters told Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, that she was in a predicament because her husband had been involved with the bank that needed help. Frank told the Office of Congressional Ethics, "She knew she should say no, but it bothered her." Frank testified it was clear to him that this was a conflict of interest problem.

His advice to Waters was to "stay out of it," the report said. □



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In this Aug. 6, 2007 file photo, Guyanese Abdul Kadir, former member of the South American nation's Parliament, arrives at the Magistrates' Court for an extradition hearing in downtown Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Kadir and Russell Defreitas were convicted Monday, Aug. 2, 2010, of plotting to blow up jet fuel tanks at John F. Kennedy International Airport, a plan that authorities said was meant to outdo the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and avenge perceived U.S. oppression of Muslims around the world.

JFK PLOT

Continued from Front Page

The defendants wanted to set off an explosion "so massive ... that it could be seen from far, far away," Assistant U.S. Attorney Zainab Ahmad said in closing arguments. Their vision prompted them to code name the plot "The Shining Light," the prosecutor said. The two men shut their eyes when the verdict was read and whispered quietly to their attorneys. During the trial, their lawyers described the two men as clueless trash-talkers who were led astray by the informant, a convicted drug dealer.

Kadir maintained his innocence. "Obviously, he's totally disappointed," said his attorney, Kafahni Nkrumah. "There's more than just the evidence Mr. Kadir was coming up against," Nkrumah said. "There's the atmosphere of fear in the country ... of Muslims, Islam and fear of terrorists, especially in New

Associated Press

York City."

Defreitas' attorney Mildred Whalen said there wouldn't have been a case without the government's intervention.

"I think it was clear these guys couldn't act on their own ... and didn't act on their own," Whalen said. "We're deeply disappointed."

Both defendants planned to appeal.

Prosecutors relied heavily on the informant's secret recordings, which captured Defreitas bragging about his knowledge of Kennedy Airport and its vulnerabilities. "For years, I've been watching them," he said of the fuel tanks while on a reconnaissance mission with the informant.

He also marveled at the lack of security, saying, "No soldier. Nothing at all."

In other tapes, Defreitas ranted about punishing the United States with an attack that would "dwarf 9/11." He told the informant his U.S. citizenship gave him cover.

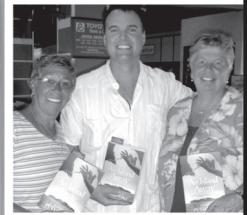
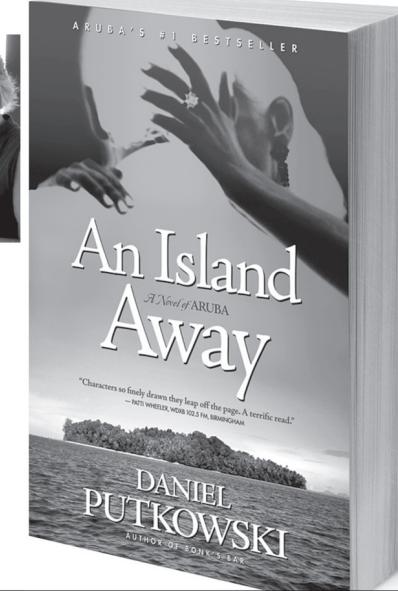
"They don't expect nobody in this country to do something like this," he said. "They have their eyes on foreigners, not me."

Kadir testified in his own defense, denying he was a militant Muslim who spied for Iran for years before joining the JFK scheme. He told jurors that he warned

the plotters: "Islam does not support aggression or killing innocent people."

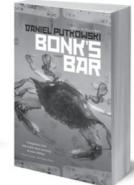
As part of the plot, Defreitas and the informant traveled to Guyana to try to meet with Kadir and show him homemade videotapes of the airport's so-called fuel farms. The plotters also discussed reaching out to Adnam Shukrijumah, an al-

Qaida member and explosives expert who was believed to be hiding out in the Caribbean at the time. Shukrijumah, an FBI-most wanted terrorist, was indicted in federal court in Brooklyn this month on charges he was involved in a failed plot to attack the New York City subway system with suicide bombers. □



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UAE: BlackBerry crackdown will affect visitors too



In this Nov. 30, 2009 file photo, a man talks on his smart phone at the Dubai Financial Market in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The UAE said Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010 it will block key features on BlackBerry smart phones, citing national security concerns because the devices operate beyond the government's ability to monitor their use. Officials in neighboring Saudi Arabia indicated it planned to follow suit.

Associated Press

ADAM SCHRECK,
AP Business Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates
(AP) — The United Arab

Emirates' looming crackdown on BlackBerry services will extend to foreign visitors, putting the government's concerns over the smart phones in direct conflict with the country's ambitions to be a business and tourism haven. The Emirates' telecoms regulator said Monday that travelers to the city-state of Dubai and the important oil industry center of Abu Dhabi will — like the 500,000 local subscribers — have to do without BlackBerry e-mail, messaging and Web services starting Oct. 11, even when they carry phones issued in other countries. The handsets themselves will still be allowed for phone calls.

Emirati authorities say the move is based on security concerns because BlackBerry

data are automatically shipped to company computers abroad, where it is difficult for local authorities to monitor for illegal activity or abuse. Critics of the crackdown say it is also a way for the country's conservative government to further control content it deems politically or morally objectionable. About 100,000 travelers pass through Dubai's airport every day, making it the busiest in the Middle East. The new restrictions could leave time-pressed business travelers hurrying through, many of them changing planes for other destinations, without access to their e-mail or the Web. "I think it's a very big step back. All developed countries in the world have it. Why should we not?" said Emirati BlackBerry user Maisoon al-Iskandarani, 24, who works at an international bank in Dubai. "How are you going to stay in touch with your clients and colleagues?"

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley called such technological restrictions "a move in the wrong direction." "We're going to clarify with the UAE what's behind this announcement, but we think it sets a dangerous precedent," Crowley told reporters. "It is our view that you should be opening up societies to these new technologies that have the opportunity to empower people."

Crowley told The Associated Press, however, that diplomats and other officials needing to travel to the region will continue to do so, even if they need to use regular cell phones rather than BlackBerry messaging services.

The Paris-based press-freedom group Reporters Without Borders urged the government to lift its ban and reach a compromise "that does not limit the freedom of the Emirati population."

Device maker Research in Motion Ltd. said it "respects both the regulatory requirements of government and the security and privacy needs of corporations and consumers," but does not disclose details of discussions with regulators in any of the

more than 175 countries where it operates. The Canadian company defended its security system as "widely accepted by security conscious customers and governments around the world." The UAE contends some BlackBerry features operate outside the country's laws, "causing judicial, social and national security concerns." At the heart of their concerns is the way the devices handle data, which get encrypted and routed through RIM's servers overseas. The automatic encryption makes BlackBerry data far more difficult, if not impossible, for authorities to monitor. The Emirates' ambassador to the U.S., Yousef al-Otaiba, said in a statement that it was merely asking RIM to comply with its regulations — just as RIM does with laws in the U.S. and other countries. The statement said the UAE has been in talks with RIM for several years without success.

The smart phones enjoy a following not only among the region's professionals, but also among tech-savvy youth who see their relatively secure communication channels as a way to avoid unwanted government attention.

The Telecommunication Regulatory Authority had left the question of phones run by foreign operators unanswered in announcing the ban.

But in an e-mailed response to questions from The Associated Press, the regulator said the service suspension would apply to all users in the country, including visitors.

That would put BlackBerry services out of reach for business travelers and others passing through the busy Mideast airport hub of Dubai, which handled 40.9 million passengers last year.

Dubai is a major commercial center, hosting the Mideast's biggest port, and has emerged as the region's financial capital and a popular tourist destination. Its image as an easy place to do business has been tarnished, however, by a credit crisis that has left the emirate more than \$100 billion in debt. Residents fear the BlackBerry crackdown won't help. □

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U.S. to reopen consulate in Mexican border city

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. consulate in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez will reopen after closing for two working days for a review of security threats, officials said Monday.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the consulate will open Tuesday. He did not provide any details on the outcome of the review or the security threat that prompted the unexpected closure on Friday and Monday.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said there would be no comment on whether security had been increased.

It was the most drastic measure the State Department has taken to keep its consulate employees safe in increasingly violent Mexican border cities. The shutdown came four months after drug gangs killed three people tied to the consulate, and two weeks after cartels detonated the

first successful car bombing against Mexican security forces in Ciudad Juarez. The city across the border from El Paso, Texas is one of the world's most dangerous, with more than 4,000 people killed there since the beginning of 2009.

Hundreds of Mexicans were forced to postpone appointments for visa applications and other services. The consulate in Ciudad Juarez is the only place that processes immigrant visas in Mexico.

The U.S. Embassy said it would reschedule appointments for visa applications through its call center, and provided a number that U.S. citizens could call for passport appointment and other services.

The Ciudad Juarez consulate processed 124,145 immigrant visa applications in 2009, plus about 120,000 travel visas, the state department said.



Security personal walk in front of the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Friday July 30, 2010. The U.S. State Department said Friday it's indefinitely closing the consulate while it evaluates threats surrounding the consulate in the Mexican border city.

Associated Press

The U.S. State Department has taken several measures over the past months to protect consulate employees and their

families. The Consul General in Monterrey said last week it is restricting American employees and their families

from traveling outside San Pedro Garza Garcia, where they live, between midnight and 6 a.m. □

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Israeli about-face: agrees to UN probe of flotilla



In this May 31, 2010 file photo the Mavi Marmara ship, the lead boat of a flotilla headed to the Gaza Strip which was stormed by Israeli naval commandos in a predawn confrontation, sails into the port of Ashdod, Israel. Israel announced Monday, Aug. 2, 2010 it will take part in a U.N. investigation into the deadly Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla last spring, in a departure from its traditional mistrust of the world body.

Associated Press

MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel agreed Monday to participate in a U.N. investigation of its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla last spring, a surprising departure from its traditional distrust of the world body. Israel expressed confidence the inquiry would find its actions justified. However, its decision to cooperate reflects the hit Israel's world standing has taken in the wake of the assault and the spotlight it turned on its three-year blockade of already impoverished Gaza.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope the panel would meet the Security Council's call for a "prompt, impartial, credible

and transparent investigation" of the May 31 confrontation in which nine Turkish activists, including one with U.S. citizenship, died after being shot by Israeli commandos boarding their ship.

The four-member U.N. panel will be chaired by former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer and co-chaired by outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and include a Turkish and an Israeli representative, Ban said. It will start work Aug. 10 and submit its first progress report by mid-September.

U.N. officials said their inquiry would not be a court-like tribunal, and it was not clear whether it would even call its own witnesses. Instead, its mandate is to oversee the separate investigations now under way by Israel and Turkey and determine if they are credible.

Israel's sudden acceptance of a U.N. inquiry counters decades of suspicion of the world body because of its routine near-unanimous votes against the Jewish state in the General Assembly.

The last time Israel cooperated with a U.N. probe was in 2000, when the U.N. drew the boundary between Israel and Lebanon after Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon following its 18-year occupation.

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said "it will be for the panel to decide exactly how they will operate and what steps may need to be taken in order to obtain the clarifications and the information from the national authorities."

Israel said it would send a representative to sit on the panel and would furnish reports from its own inquiry, but ruled out allowing soldiers or military officers to testify. "Israel has nothing to hide. The opposite is true," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

"It is in Israel's national interest to ensure that the factual truth about the entire flotilla incident will be made public, and that is precisely the principle we

are promoting."

Government spokesman Mark Regev would not say what, if any, assurances Israel had received from the U.N. chief. Israeli officials said the new panel would be "balanced and fair," since Ban set it up himself. Israel contrasted that with the inquiry into Israel's bruising invasion of Gaza 18 months ago to try to stop rocket attacks, set up by a U.N. human rights body Israel accuses of bias.

Israel boycotted that inquiry, which ended up accusing both Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers of war crimes.

Israel endured a wave of criticism after the invasion and its refusal to cooperate with the inquiry. Now, faced with another outcry over the Turkish flotilla incident, Israel might not have had enough political capital to reject another probe.

The negative publicity over the flotilla raid has already forced Israel to ease its Gaza blockade, removing most limits on consumer goods while maintaining restrictions on building materials, banning most travel and exports and enforcing its tight naval blockade.

Israel insists the blockade is needed to keep weapons out of the hands of Gaza's radical Islamic Hamas rulers. Gaza militants have fired thousands of rockets at Israel, and Israel warns that allowing free flow of weapons into the coastal territory by sea would endanger countries beyond Israel as well.

The U.N. is on record as opposing the naval blockade, and it was unclear how Israel could expect a favorable ruling with that in mind.

Regev would not commit Israel in advance to accepting the findings of the commission, saying: "We're entering this process in confidence that we're talking about a panel that will be credible and objective."

"We are sure that any independent look at the facts will verify that Israel took appropriate steps enforcing the naval blockade," he told The Associated Press. □

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Troops kill 7 protesters in Indian-ruled Kashmir

AIJAZ HUSSAIN

Associated Press Writer

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Government troops fired live ammunition and tear gas into crowds of anti-India protesters Monday as tens of thousands of people demonstrated across Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said. Seven civilians were reported killed.

More than 60 protesters and almost 70 government forces were injured on one of the worst days in nearly two months of violent clashes between troops and residents who strongly oppose India's rule over the predominantly Muslim region.

Kashmir's top elected official, Omar Abdullah, met with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Monday to discuss defusing the crisis that has caused 40 deaths over seven weeks.

"The need is to end the cycle of violence. Some semblance of normalcy has to be a precursor for any political initiative," Abdullah told reporters.

The recent unrest in the Himalayan region — divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both — is

reminiscent of the late 1980s, when protests against New Delhi's rule sparked an armed conflict that has since claimed 68,000 lives, mostly civilians. Kashmiri Muslims have held massive street protests, attacked security camps with rocks and burned police stations. Government forces have responded by using live ammunition and tear gas to break up the protests.

Clashes erupted again Monday in dozens of places across the region, as protesters defied a round-the-clock curfew.

At least two people were killed and another three wounded when government forces fired to disperse protesters blocking a highway in Sangam, a village south of Srinagar, said a police officer on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Government forces also fired on thousands of people holding street protests in the southern town of Kakpora, killing one and wounding five, the officer said.

As the news of the killing reached nearby villages, thousands more took to streets and burned a police station

and scores of vehicles parked there, the officer said.

In the northern village of Kralpora, protesters set a security bunker on fire and ransacked a counterinsurgency police force camp, the officer said. Troops opened fire, killing one protester and wounding seven others, three critically, he said.

In another police shooting, one person was killed and another wounded in the southern village of Chawalgam, the officer said.

In the southern town of Kulgam, another protester was killed when government forces opened fire and used tear gas to control hundreds of marchers. At least 12 people were injured, four of them critically with bullet wounds, the police officer said.

One young boy was killed in a clash between the protesters and paramilitary forces in Srinagar, the officer said.

Local residents claimed that the boy was beaten to death by security forces. Police said they were investigating the cause of the death.

Another 20 people were injured in the southern town of



An Indian policeman fires teargas shells to disperse protesters during a demonstration defying curfew at Humhamma, on the outskirts of Srinagar, India, Monday, Aug. 2, 2010. Government troops fired into crowds of protesters Monday as tens of thousands of people across Indian-controlled Kashmir demonstrated their rejection of India's rule over the predominantly Muslim region, police said.

Associated Press

Rajpora when police opened fire and used tear gas to quell the protesters who burned a police station, the officer said. Protesters also burned a government building and a local intelligence office in Budgam, a town to the west of Srinagar, the region's main city. Four protesters were injured there, the officer said. The other injuries occurred in clashes elsewhere in the region, the officer said.

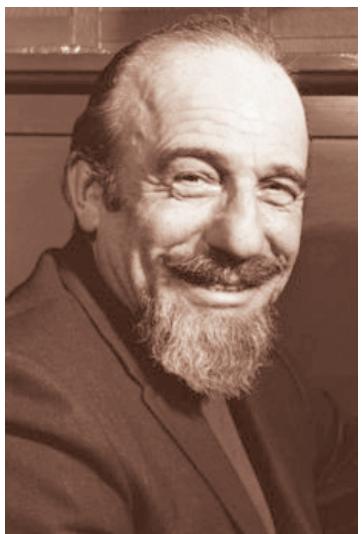
A state police statement said 39 police officers and 28 paramilitary soldiers also were injured in the daylong clashes with protesters.

In Srinagar, troops announced over public address systems

mounted on their vehicles that stern action would be taken against those violating the curfew. However, hundreds of protesters came out on the streets in several neighborhoods, chanting "Go India! Go back" and "We want freedom." Troops fired warning shots and tear gas to disperse the protesters, the police officer said.

Abdullah, in New Delhi, described the situation in the Kashmir valley as worrisome and said that "some anti-social elements are hellbent to foment trouble, mayhem and bloodshed in the valley to satiate their political designs." □

Conductor Mitch Miller dies at age 99



FILE - In this file photo of Jan. 5, 1968, conductor Mitch Miller is seen at the Billy Rose Theater in New York. Miller, the goateed orchestra leader who asked Americans to 'Sing Along With Mitch' on television and records, has died at age 99. His daughter said Miller died in New York City after a short illness.

(AP Photo/Bob Wands, File)

By KAREN MATTHEWS,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Mitch Miller, the goateed orchestra leader who asked Americans to "Sing Along With Mitch" on television and records and produced hits for Tony Bennett, Patti Page and other performers, has died at age 99.

His daughter, Margaret Miller Reuther, said Monday that Miller died Saturday in Lenox Hill Hospital after a short illness.

Miller was a key record executive at Columbia Records in the pre-rock 'n' roll era, making hits with singers Bennett, Page, Rosemary Clooney and Johnny Mathis. As a producer and arranger, Miller had misses, too, famously striking out on projects with Frank Sinatra and a young Aretha Franklin and in general scorning the rise of rock.

"Sing Along With Mitch" started as a series of records, then became a popular NBC show starting in early 1961. Miller's stiff-armed conducting style and signature goatee became famous. The TV show ranked in the top 20 for the 1961-62 season, and soon children everywhere were parodying Miller's

stiff-armed conducting. An all-male chorus sang old standards, joined by a few female singers, most prominently Leslie Uggams. Viewers were invited to join in with lyrics superimposed on the screen and followed with a bouncing ball.

"He is an odd-looking man," New York Times critic Brooks Atkinson wrote in 1962. "His sharp beard, twinkling eyes, wrinkled forehead and mechanical beat make him look like a little puppet as he peers hopefully into the camera. By now most of us are more familiar with his tonsils than with those of our families."

Atkinson went on to say that as a musician, Miller was "first rate," praising "the clean tone of the singing, the clarity of the lyrics, the aptness of the tempos, the variety and the occasional delicacy of the instrumental accompaniment."

An accomplished oboist, Miller played in a number of orchestras early in his career, including one put together in 1934 by George Gershwin. "Gershwin was an unassuming guy," Miller told The New York Times in 1989. "I never heard him raise his voice."

Miller began in the recording business with Mercury Records in the late '40s, first on the classical side, later with popular music. He then went over to Columbia Records as head of its popular records division.

Among the stars whose hits he worked on were Clooney, Page, Bennett, Frankie Laine and Jo Stafford. His decision to have Mathis switch from jazz to lushly romantic ballads launched the singer as a superstar. Bennett credits Miller with helping him become a superstar.

"Mitch Miller put me on the map by producing some of my very first million-selling records, and he was a great friend and a magnificent musician," Bennett said in a statement.

Miller had a less rewarding

collaboration with Sinatra, whose recording of the novelty song "Mama Will Bark," featuring dog imitations, was considered the nadir of the singer's career. Still, Miller became known for his distinctive arrangements, such as the use of a harpsichord on Clooney's megahit version of "Come On-a My House." He used dubbing of vocal tracks back when that was considered exotic.

"To me, the art of singing a pop song has always been to sing it very quietly," Miller said in the book "Off the Record: An Oral History of Popular Music."

"The microphone and the amplifier made the popular song what it is — an intimate one-on-one experience through electronics. It's not like opera or classical singing. The whole idea is to take a very small thing and make it big."

Miller and a chorus had a No. 1 hit in 1955 with "The Yellow Rose of Texas," and that led to his sing-along records a few years later. The years of Miller's biggest successes were also the early years of rock 'n' roll, and many fans saw his old-fashioned arrangements of standards and folk favorites as an antidote to the noisy stuff the teens adored. As an executive at Columbia, Miller would be widely ridiculed for trying to turn a young Aretha Franklin into a showbiz diva in the tradition of Sophie Tucker. She left Columbia in the mid-1960s, signed with Atlantic Records and was soon transformed into the "Queen of Soul."

But Miller was not entirely unsympathetic to rock 'n' roll, or to the counterculture. In 1969, he attended a massive demonstration in Washington against the Vietnam War. In a 1955 essay in The New York Times magazine, he said the popularity of rhythm and blues, as he called it, with white teens was part of young people's "natural desire not to conform, a need to be

rebellious."

He added: "There is a steady — and healthy — breaking down of color barriers in the United States; perhaps the rhythm-and-blues rage — I am only theorizing — is another expression of it."

"Miller has often been maligned as a maestro of 1950s schlock ... Yet Miller injected elements of rhythm and blues and country music, however diluted, into mainstream pop," Ken Emerson wrote in his book "Always Magic in the Air."

In the Martin Scorsese documentary on Bob Dylan, "No Direction Home," Miller acknowledged that he was dubious when famed producer John Hammond brought the nearly unknown Dylan to the staid Columbia label in the early '60s. "He was singing in, you know, this rough-edged voice," Miller said. "I will admit I didn't see the greatness of it." But he said he respected Hammond's track record in finding talent.

Miller's square reputation in the post-rock era brought his name and music to unexpected places. In 1993, one of his "Sing Along" records was used by the FBI to drive out the Branch Davidian cult from its Waco, Texas compound. In recent years, Miller returned to his classical roots, appearing frequently as a guest conductor with symphony orchestras.

In 2000, he won a special Grammy Award for lifetime achievement.

Reuther said her father died of "just old age."

"He was absolutely himself up until the minute he got sick," she said. "He was truly blessed with a long and wonderful life."

Miller was born in 1911, in Rochester, N.Y., son of a Russian Jewish immigrant wrought-iron worker and a seamstress. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester.

Reuther said there will be a memorial service for her father in the fall.



FILE - In this undated publicity image released by Fox, new 'American Idol' judge Ellen DeGeneres is shown. DeGeneres is dancing off 'American Idol' after one season, leaving Fox's hit show with two vacancies on its judging panel.

(AP Photo/Fox, Michael Becker, FILE)

Fox couldn't talk DeGeneres into staying on 'Idol'

By LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Ellen DeGeneres couldn't be talked into staying with "American Idol," a Fox executive said Monday, creating a second opening for change in the show's 10th season.

Who will fill her judge's chair and the one vacated by Simon Cowell were questions left unanswered by Peter Rice, chairman of entertainment for the Fox Networks Group.

"There are no deals signed on either side of the camera" with newcomers, Rice told a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

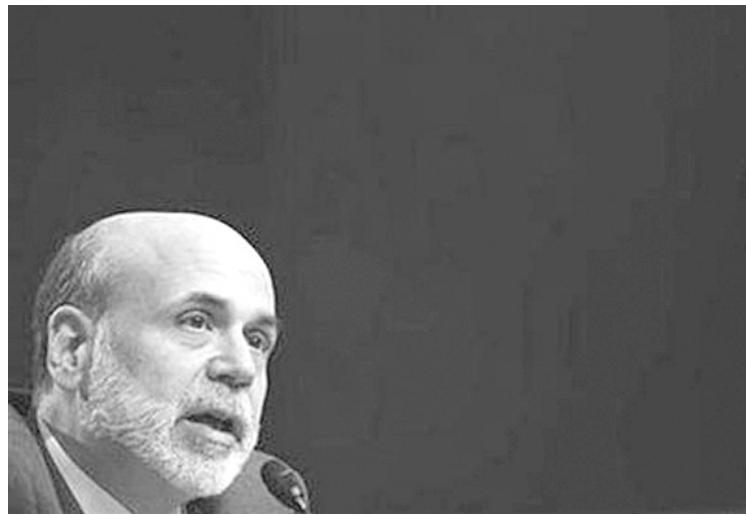
Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler have been reported as front-runners for the panel. Rice said some of the media speculation about the future of "American Idol" were accurate and that some were "wildly inaccurate."

He also declined to discuss the status of original judge Randy Jackson, reports that Kara DioGuardi might be in jeopardy after two years on the panel or whether former "American Idol" producer Nigel Lythgoe is in talks to return.

Rice said the goal was to have the judges in place by mid-September, when auditions that include the panel will be filmed. Would-be contestants at the auditions under way now are being screened by producers and others. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in a hearing on "The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress," on Capitol Hill in Washington July 21, 2010.

REUTERS/Molly Riley

Economy still short of full recovery: Bernanke

By Joe Rauch

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (Reuters) – The economy is improving but has yet to recover fully, with high unemployment and a weak housing market leaving consumers unsettled, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said on Monday.

This means monetary policy must remain accommodative until the economic recovery is on a sustainable path and job creation picks up, Bernanke said, though he offered no fresh clues about the Fed's likely next move.

"We need to make sure that monetary policy continues to provide the support the economy needs until we begin to see growth, sustained growth and particularly growth in jobs," he said in response to questions of state legislators.

The U.S. recovery lost a step in the second quarter, with growth slowing to a 2.4 percent annual rate from 3.7 percent in the first three months of the year, a pace too sluggish to do much to pull down unemployment.

Data on Monday showed the manufacturing sector's expansion moderating to its slowest pace since December, and a report on Friday is expected to show a second month of net job losses.

The economy is expected to top the agenda in mid-term congressional elections in November, with Democrats facing the prospect of losing their majority party status.

Bernanke told Congress last month that the Fed was not powerless to fight a new slowdown in the economy, and could take steps such as lowering the interest it pays on bank reserves or buying more assets if things get worse.

But he stayed away from such detail in his speech on Monday, arguing simply that budget constraints at the local level were also hindering the national rebound.

"We have a considerable way to go to achieve full recovery in our economy, and many Americans are still grappling with unemployment, foreclosure and lost savings," Bernanke said. Bernanke said consumer spending, which eased in the April-June period, should pick up in coming quarters as income rises and credit conditions improve. He said that should help sustain the recovery, even as a lift from fiscal stimulus and a restocking of inventories by businesses fades. □

Economic reports give stocks big start for August

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – The stock market began August with a huge rally after reports from around the world revived investors' faith in the global recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 208 points Monday. All the major stock indexes rose about 2 percent. The first day of the month brought a stream of news that reassured investors who have worried about a slowing of economic growth in the U.S., China and Europe. Manufacturing was a common thread:

- The Institute for Supply Management's index of U.S. manufacturing activity during July was better than the market expected. Traders were pleased because the report still showed that manufacturing is growing.

- A manufacturing report for the 16 countries that use the euro was revised higher for July and showed that the European economy is recovering faster than expected. Strong earnings reports from European banks also pleased the market, especially after the continent's rising debt problems helped trigger a spring plunge in stocks.

- From China came news that industrial growth was moderate enough that Beijing isn't likely to take steps to slow that country's economy. Investors have periodically sold stocks on concerns that China's economy would slow and pull others down with it. Monday's news was encouraging after months of reports that showed the recovery was weakening. Those reports pulled the major stock indexes off their 2010 highs in late April and



Trader Thomas McCauley, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Aug. 2, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

contributed to sharp swings in stock prices since then. The ISM report is significant because it is the first major reading of the economy from July, and investors are trying to determine just how strong the recovery will be in the second half of the year.

The big advance was a bit of a surprise for traders who are used to more subdued trading as August arrives. Over the past 12 years, the Dow has fallen nine times on the first trading day in August, although it has risen the past three years. August in general is seen as a volatile month for stocks, largely because many traders are away on vacation. That makes for low trading volumes and exaggerated price moves.

Some analysts were cautious even as stock prices jumped. Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments in Richmond, Va., said Monday's news, while good, showed only small changes in the economy.

"Fundamentally, I do believe the pace of the (economic) expansion is slowing and I think that's going to weigh on the markets as we go through the second half of the year," he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 208.44, or 2 percent, to 10,674.38. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 24.26, or 2.2 percent, to 1,125.86, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 40.66, or 1.8 percent, to 2,295.36.

Six stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange where volume came to a light 1 billion shares. With stocks looking more appealing, bond prices fell because investors felt less need to seek the safety of government securities. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.97 percent from 2.91 percent late Friday. Its yield is often used as a benchmark to set interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

Stocks were up across the market. Industrial and materials stocks, including 3M Co. and General Electric Co., rose after the ISM report. Investors were encouraged in particular by several key components of the index. Production and new orders both improved, as did companies' willingness to hire new employees.

3M rose \$1.8799, or 2.2 percent, to \$87.41, while GE rose 29 cents to \$16.41. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

WNBA Roundup

Marques leads Dream into conference lead in WNBA

ATLANTA (AP) — Iziane Castro Marques had 22 points and Angel McCoughtry scored 20 as the Atlanta Dream took over first place in the Eastern Conference with a 90-74 victory over the Indiana Fever on Sunday.

It was the fourth victory in a row for the Dream, which improved to 10 wins and only two losses at home. Erika DeSouza scored 16 points, and Sancho Lytle had 13 points and eight rebounds for Atlanta.

Tamika Catchings scored 24 points for Indiana, which lost consecutive games for the first time since opening the season with back-to-back losses. The Dream shot 51 percent while the Fever made just 35 percent.

At Washington, Monique



Minnesota Lynx's Rebekkah Brunson (32), Seimone Augustus (33), and Alexis Hornbuckle (14) celebrate their victory at the buzzer as Seattle Storm's Lauren Jackson, left, Svetlana Abrosimova (25) and Swin Cash, right, react to Seattle's loss during a WNBA basketball game, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Minneapolis. The Lynx defeated the Storm 72-71.

Associated Press

Currie and Katie Smith scored 15 points each as Washington cruised past struggling Tulsa. Marissa Coleman had 14 points and 10 rebounds for her first career double-double, Crystal Langhorne added 11 points, and Chasity Melvin and Lindsey Harding each had 10 for the Mystics.

Tiffany Jackson had 14 points and seven rebounds to lead the Shock, who lost their seventh straight and 19th in their last 20.

President Barack Obama attended the game and sat courtside with a group that included his 8-year-old daughter Sasha — wearing a Mystics jersey — and Ted Leonsis, who owns the Mystics, the NBA's Wizards and the NHL's Capitals.

Continued on Page 15



This July 6, 2010, file photo shows Lance Armstrong grimacing prior to the start of the third stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Wanze, Belgium. Armstrong's attorneys say the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is offering cyclists a "sweetheart deal" if they testify or provide evidence that the seven-time Tour de France winner cheated by doping.

JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lance Armstrong's attorneys say the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is offering cyclists a "sweetheart deal" if they testify or provide evidence that the seven-time Tour de France winner cheated by doping. If those riders have been caught

Associated Press

doping, the deal from USADA could result in a reduced ban from competition and other incentives, attorney Tim Herman told The Associated Press on Monday.

Federal investigators in Los Angeles are looking at cheating in professional cycling and have shown interest in Armstrong since

Armstrong lawyers say USADA offering riders deals

former teammate and 2006 Tour de France winner Floyd Landis alleged this year that Armstrong and others took performance-enhancing drugs, which Armstrong strongly denies.

In 2007, Landis said USADA offered him a similar deal to finger Armstrong. At the time, Landis called the offer "offensive" and did not provide evidence against Armstrong. USADA spokeswoman Erin Hannan said the agency could not comment in detail about an investigation.

"Our effort in any investigation is a search for the truth, nothing more and nothing less," Hannan said. "On behalf of clean athletes, we will fairly and thoroughly evaluate all evidence of doping to reveal the truth. When the process

results in credible evidence of doping, clean athletes can rest assured we will take appropriate action under the rules established by federal law."

USADA has a history of reducing penalties for athletes who provide evidence of doping violations by other athletes, but asking for information about specific athletes is not allowed under the agency's rules.

Armstrong's attorneys say USADA's current offer is for riders to talk to federal investigator Jeff Novitzky, who could then give the information to USADA. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Presumably, the alleged deal

would only be worthwhile for riders who are still competing or young enough to return to competition if a ban was lifted.

"USADA is promising riders a sweetheart deal if they can produce anything harmful on Armstrong," Herman said. "A rider who has doped, they tell them, 'If you can finger Armstrong, we'll get out the eraser ... and everything is cool.'" Herman said he could not disclose which rider or riders have been offered a deal. Landis implicated at least 16 other people in various doping acts, including longtime Armstrong confidant George Hincapie, Armstrong's current Team Radioshack teammate Levi Leipheimer and another elite American rider, Dave Zabriskie. □



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NL Roundup

Phillips leads Reds to 2-1 win over Braves

CINCINNATI (AP) — Brandon Phillips hit a tying triple with two out in the fifth inning and scored the tiebreaking run on shortstop Alex Gonzalez's error, helping the Cincinnati Reds beat the Atlanta Braves 2-1 on Sunday in the finale of the weekend series.

Ramon Hernandez was on first when Phillips lifted a fly ball down the right-field line that eluded a diving Jason Heyward and bounced into the corner. Orlando Cabrera followed with a routine grounder to Gonzalez, but the former Reds infielder dropped the ball, and Phillips scored while Cabrera easily beat the throw to first.

The NL East-leading Braves have lost three of four. They wasted a solid outing by Tommy Hanson (8-8), who allowed an earned run and five hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Edinson Volquez (2-1) pitched five innings for the Reds and Francisco Cordero got three outs for his 29th save.

At Washington, Placido

Polanco and Jayson Werth each drove in a run in the 11th inning, helping Philadelphia avoid the sweep.

Wilson Valdez led off the 11th with a bunt single against Collin Balester (0-1) and was sacrificed to second by pinch-hitter Roy Oswalt, the ace pitcher acquired Thursday in a trade with Houston. Valdez went to third on a fly ball by Jimmy Rollins and scored on Polanco's third hit, a single to center.

Werth followed with an RBI double. The Phillies lost the first two games of the series to the last-place Nationals but managed to avoid their first sweep against Washington.

At San Diego, Jerry Hairston Jr. hit a two-run double with two outs in the sixth inning to chase Florida ace Josh Johnson as the Padres avoided a three-game sweep.

San Diego right-hander Jon Garland (10-7) outpitched Johnson (10-4), allowing three runs and five hits in six innings.

Johnson gave up seven hits and a season-high five runs in 5 2-3 innings. His major league-leading ERA rose from 1.72 to 1.96.

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer and Adam Wainwright stayed unbeaten at home with seven strong innings for the Cardinals. Pujols' 25th homer capped a five-run fifth inning.

Wainwright (15-6) allowed one earned run and six hits, bouncing back strong from one of his worst outings of the season. He improved to 11-0 at Busch Stadium with a 1.22 ERA, both major league bests.

Wainwright also hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Zach Duke in the fifth.

Matt Holliday also homered for St. Louis, which outscored Pittsburgh 21-2 in sweeping the three-game series.

At New York, Adam LaRoche hit a pair of three-run homers and Daniel Hudson made a memorable debut for Arizona. Stephen Drew and John Hester added back-to-back homers as



Cincinnati Reds pitcher Francisco Cordero, right, is congratulated by catcher Ramon Hernandez, left, after they defeated the Atlanta Braves 2-1 in a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

the Diamondbacks wrapped up a dominating season series against New York. They took five of six, rebounding from the lone loss to prevent the Mets from winning consecutive games for the first time since early June.

Hudson (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in eight innings in his sixth career start. It was his first game since he was

acquired from the White Sox last week in the deal that sent Edwin Jackson to Chicago. LaRoche had his sixth career multihomer game, both shots coming off Jon Niese (7-5). LaRoche also set a career high with six RBIs.

At Denver, Jorge De La Rosa pitched into the seventh inning to earn his first win in three months as Colorado earned its fourth consecutive victory.

Chicago scored three times in the ninth against Huston Street but Jeff Baker struck out to end the game. Rockies center fielder Dexter Fowler was carted off the field with bruised ribs and a bruised left hip after crashing into the wall while catching Alfonso Soriano's sacrifice fly.

In other NL games it was: Arizona 14, N.Y. Mets 1; Cincinnati 2, Atlanta 1; Philadelphia 6, Washington 4, 11 innings; Houston 5, Milwaukee 2; St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 1; Colorado 8, Chicago Cubs 7; San Diego 5, Florida 4; and San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 0. □



Chicago Fire midfielder Marco Pappa celebrates scoring against the Los Angeles Galaxy during the first half of their MLS soccer match, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

The Fire's Freddie Ljungberg, acquired from Seattle on July 30, made his team debut when he replaced Pappa in the 58th minute. □

Pappa, John help Fire to 3-2 win over Galaxy

CARSON, California (AP) — Marco Pappa and Collins John scored within a two-minute span early in the first half to help the Chicago Fire to a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy on Sunday night.

Mike Banner also scored for the Fire, which won its second consecutive game after losing five straight in all competitions. Landon Donovan converted penalties in the 37th and 81st minutes for the Galaxy, which lost its first home league game of the season. Donovan's first goal was the 100th of his MLS career.

Pappa gave Chicago a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute with a 13-yard shot and then John doubled the lead when he fired a 6-yard shot between goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts and the right post. Banner made it 3-0 in the 19th minute with a volley from seven yards after Ricketts had deflected a 19-yard shot from Pappa.

AL Roundup

Rays Shields shuts down A-Rod and Yankees



Tampa Bay Rays starter James Shields pitches against the New York Yankees during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

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ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — James Shields worked into the eighth inning to outpitch CC Sabathia, prolong Alex Rodriguez's quest for his 600th homer and help Tampa Bay beat the New York Yankees 3-0 on Sunday. Carl Crawford and Kelly Shoppach drove in runs for the Rays, who took two of three games during a matchup between the teams with the top two records in baseball. The Yankees intended for Rodriguez to take a day off. But with Shields (10-9) sailing along with a three-run lead in the seventh, manager Joe Girardi inserted the slugger as a pinch-hitter with a runner on and two outs.

Rodriguez took a third called strike. He remained in the game at third base, but didn't get to the plate again. Shields walked one and struck out 11 while limiting the World Series champions to four hits over 7 1-3 innings.

Rays reliever Chad Qualls, acquired Saturday from

Arizona, got Lance Berkman to hit into a double play to end the eighth. Rafael Soriano pitched the ninth, finishing the five-hitter for his 30th save in 32 opportunities.

Sabathia (13-5) allowed three runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings, losing his second consecutive start after winning nine straight decisions.

Tampa Bay won for the eighth time in nine games, trimming New York's lead in the AL East to one game.

Rodriguez' next chance at the milestone comes Monday night at home against Toronto.

Angels 4, Rangers 1

At Anaheim, Jered Weaver outpitched Cliff Lee with seven sharp innings in a matchup of the AL's strikeout and ERA leaders as Los Angeles beat Texas to win two of three in their weekend series.

The Rangers' lead in the AL West was shaved to eight games by the three-time defending division champions, who avoided falling at least 10 games out of first place for the

first time since the end of the 2003 season.

Weaver (10-7) allowed an unearned run on four hits and struck out seven to increase his league-best total to 162. The right-hander, making his fourth start against the Rangers this season, was coming off a pair of hard-luck losses — one of which came at Texas when Lee beat him 3-2.

Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect eighth and Brian Fuentes got three outs for his 20th save in 24 attempts.

Lee (9-4) went the distance for the seventh time this season, allowing nine hits over eight innings.

The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner, who has pitched at least eight innings in each of his last nine starts, is 1-2 with a 2.91 ERA in five outings with the Rangers after joining them in a trade from Seattle on July 9. Overall, his ERA is a league-best 2.51.

Twins 4, Mariners 0

At Minneapolis, Francisco Liriano matched a season high with 11 strikeouts and Jason Kubel ended a slump with a three-run double as the Minnesota Twins beat Seattle 4-0 for the second consecutive day.

Playing without sluggers Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau, the Twins won their eighth straight and completed a three-game sweep. They remained a half-game behind first-place Chicago in the AL Central.

The Mariners lost their seventh in a row.

Liriano (10-7) went seven innings to extend his shutout streak to 21. He has allowed only two runs in his last 28 2-3 innings.

Luke French (0-2) held Minnesota scoreless through five innings before getting into trouble in the sixth.

In other AL games it was Cleveland 5, Toronto 4; Boston 4, Detroit 3; Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 0; Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 1; Kansas City 5, Baltimore 4; Minnesota 4, Seattle 0; and L.A. Angels 4, Texas 1. □

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American, British crews to face off in 1851 Cup

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

The America's Cup is making a rare visit back to England, where the new American champion will face a British team in an exhibition regatta this week.

BMW Oracle Racing of San Francisco will meet TeamOrigin in the 1851 Cup off Cowes starting Tuesday. The highlight will be a race Thursday around the Isle of Wight, retracing the 53-nautical-mile course used in 1851 when the schooner America humbled a fleet of British ships to win the silver trophy that became known as the America's Cup.

The teams will also match race in the Solent on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, sailing in sloops used in the 2007 America's Cup.

BMW Oracle Racing skipper Jimmy Spithill has had to readjust to sailing sloops after steering BMW Oracle Racing's fast, powerful and monstrous trimaran to a two-race sweep of Alinghi of Switzerland in the 33rd America's Cup off Valencia, Spain, in February.

Spithill estimates it will take the modern America's Cup sloops about eight hours to

get around the Isle of Wight. "Honestly, I'm more excited about the shorter courses," the Australian said by phone on Monday.

"Obviously it will be fun, but it'll be quite a long journey. I'd much rather be doing it in the trimaran. It would be a lot faster."

Navigator Ian Moore lives in Cowes, so BMW Oracle Racing hopes to benefit from local knowledge.

"He's a local boy, so for him it will be quite a big day and should be pretty fun, depending on the weather," Spithill said.

Spithill, who at 30 became the youngest skipper to win the America's Cup, will sail against TeamOrigin's Ben Ainslie, a three-time Olympic gold medalist and former teammate during the 2003 America's Cup.

Although an exhibition, it will certainly be competitive.

"Look, we'd love nothing better than to beat him in his home waters," Spithill said. "We'd be able to get some good mileage out of that. We're good mates and we get along well, but it will be very competitive."

Since winning the America's Cup, BMW Oracle Racing

draw the foul.

Jia Perkins had hit a 16-footer with 5.6 seconds left to give the Sky a lead after DeWanna Bonner hit two free throws with 10.9 seconds left to put Phoenix ahead 95-94.

Sylvia Fowles had 12 of her career-high 35 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Sky, who had a 94-91 advantage with 1:23 remaining.

Lynx 72, Storm 71

At Minneapolis, Seimone Augustus scored 24 points and Minnesota ended Seattle's 13-game winning streak.

Augustus scored six quick points early in the fourth quarter to extend Minnesota's dwindling lead and became the second-fastest player in WNBA history to reach 2,500 career points, behind only Cynthia Cooper. Charde Houston added 14 points and Lindsay Whalen 11 as the Lynx ended a five-game losing skid.

Sue Bird scored 16 points and Tanisha Wright added 15 for Seattle, which saw its franchise-best winning streak end. Lauren Jackson, the league's second-leading scorer, finished with 12 points.

In the WNBA action: Atlanta 90, Indiana 74; New York 71, Connecticut 67; Washington 87, Tulsa 62; Phoenix 97, Chicago 96; Minnesota 72, Seattle 71.

has shown it off to President Barack Obama at the White House, and to the public in San Diego, Auckland, New Zealand; Newport, Rhode Island; and Sardinia, Italy. The trophy will be on display during the week in Cowes. After the 1851 race, legend has it that Queen Victoria, watching from the royal yacht, was dismayed at America's victory margin. Hoping for some consolation, she asked who was second. "Your Majesty, there is no second," came the reply. The British have tried unsuccessfully for more than a century to win back the America's Cup.

BMW Oracle Racing is working with Italy's Club Nautico di Roma, the Challenger of Record, on details for the 34th America's Cup, which will be sailed in either 2013 or 2014. San Francisco is the only U.S. port being considered to host the America's Cup match, and preliminaries could be held in other ports around the world.

The venue will be announced by the end of the year. A new class of boat is expected to be chosen by the end of September. □



The British America's Cup team, Team Origin, left, practice start maneuvers against the holders, BMW Oracle from the USA, on the Solent Monday Aug. 2, 2010, on the third day of Cowes Week, Isle of Wight, southern England, 900 yachts of all sizes will compete throughout the week in 34 classes, with over 100,000 visitors watching from the shore. It is the 184th time the event has been held since the first in 1826.

Associated Press

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NFL Training Camps

Jets open training camp without holdout CB Revis

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Jets opened training camp without cornerback Darrelle Revis, while Albert Haynesworth missed another practice with the Washington Redskins after failing to take a conditioning test.

Revis is holding out while locked in a contract dispute with the Jets, and there's no telling how long the All-Pro might stay away.

"Darrelle and his family were extremely deliberate with the decision-making process," agent Neil Schwartz told the Associated Press. "Obviously his actions speak far louder than words."

Revis didn't show for the team's conditioning test Sunday morning at the Jets' training facility in Florham Park, New Jersey, and officially became a holdout when he missed the team's first meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Cortland, New York.

Not good news for a team with its sights set on a Super Bowl.

Schwartz and agent Jon Feinsod said both sides worked until the last minute to get something done. General manager Mike Tannenbaum said the Jets offered long-term and short-term deals, and a face-to-face meeting in



New York Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie, right, defends against Braylon Edwards during practice at the Jets NFL football training camp in Cortland, N.Y., Monday, Aug. 2, 2010.

Associated Press

the last 72 hours and all three were denied.

Haynesworth's sore left knee kept him from taking the conditioning test once again, forcing him to sit out practice for the fourth straight day. "There's no change from yesterday," coach Mike Shanahan said. "He's still sore,

irritated, getting treatment, working out, and we'll see if he's ready to go tomorrow."

The two-time All-Pro defensive tackle won't be allowed to practice until he passes the test. He failed it on the first day of training camp Thursday and again on Friday. He didn't take it Saturday because he had a small amount of swelling in his knee.

After Sunday's practice was over, Haynesworth emerged for what has become a daily ritual. He spent about 15 minutes walking through plays with defensive coordinator Jim Haslett and defensive line coach Jacob Burney, learning the nuances of the team's new 3-4 defense.

Haynesworth is the only Redskins player required to take the test because he skipped the team's offseason conditioning program, partly

because he wanted to work out on his own and mostly because he didn't want to play nose tackle in the 3-4 scheme and was hoping for a trade.

The San Diego Chargers finally signed rookie running back Ryan Mathews to a five-year, \$25.65 million contract, with just more than \$15 million in guaranteed money. Mathews was expected to be at Sunday's late-afternoon practice. He missed seven practices, including three for rookies and selected veterans last week.

San Diego moved up 16 spots in the draft to take Mathews with the 12th pick overall. He'll replace LaDainian Tomlinson, the 2006 NFL MVP who was released in the offseason and then signed with the Jets.

Late Sunday night, the Jacksonville Jaguars

announced that they had come to terms with their first-round pick, defensive tackle Tyson Alualu from California. The deal is for five years and worth about \$28 million. It includes more than \$17 million guaranteed, but Alualu's agent says the proposed deal had not been approved by his client.

"We're close, but my client has still not signed off on it," agent Kenneth Zuckerman said. "I think they're just excited. That's all I think it is. I think someone jumped the gun." At San Antonio, after the Cowboys finished their ninth day of training camp a week before their preseason opener, quarterback Tony Romo said he started cutting back on his throws after first feeling soreness Saturday. He described it as "usually about a two- or three-day thing."

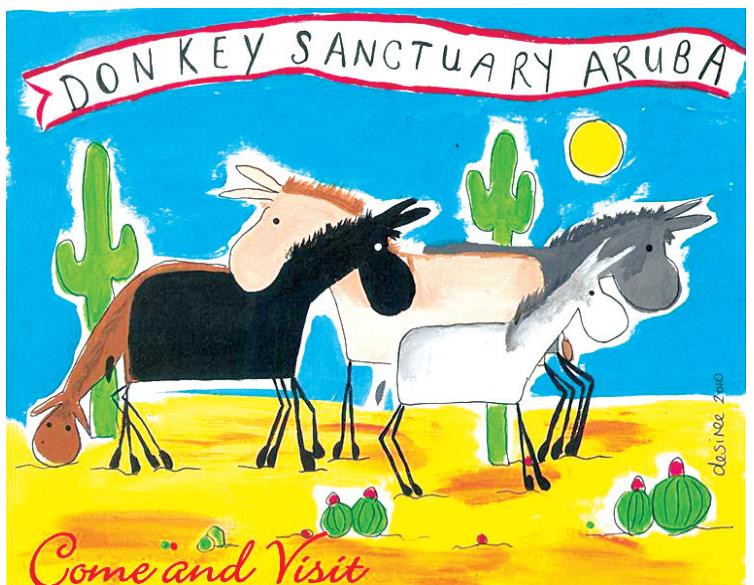
Romo says he is too competitive to be on the field without participating and plans to keep grinding because there is so much to be working on.

Steelers kicker Jeff Reed wasn't happy to learn he won't be signed to the multiyear contract he expected after being designated as the team's franchise player.

The Steelers told Reed earlier in the year they wanted to work out an extended contract. Any chance that deal would get done apparently ended when right tackle Willie Colon was injured in June and Flozell Adams signed a two-year contract to replace him.

Reed, who signed a one-year contract for \$2,814,000, can become an unrestricted free agent after this season.

"All I can do is play this year out and that's pretty much it," Reed said. "I was very optimistic last offseason and that didn't get me anywhere." □

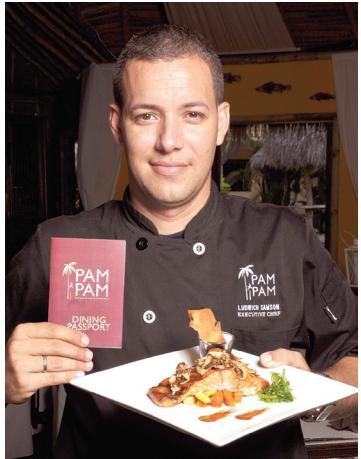


Aruban delegation invited to Miss Zona Libre Paraguana



A culinary feast with a twist

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BUBALI - Although Gulliver traveled around the world in 90 days, Pam Pam Restaurant is beating him to it a few hundred years later. The elegant restaurant offers the culinary highlights of different countries without you having to hop on and off planes, combat jet lag or losing your luggage.

Page B7



ORANJESTAD - This Thursday, August 5th, a delegation will leave for Punto Fijo, Venezuela invited by the commission of "Zona Libre Paraguana". President of Miss Divi Divi International Ricardo Croes of the Rio Hacha Colombia will lead the delegation.

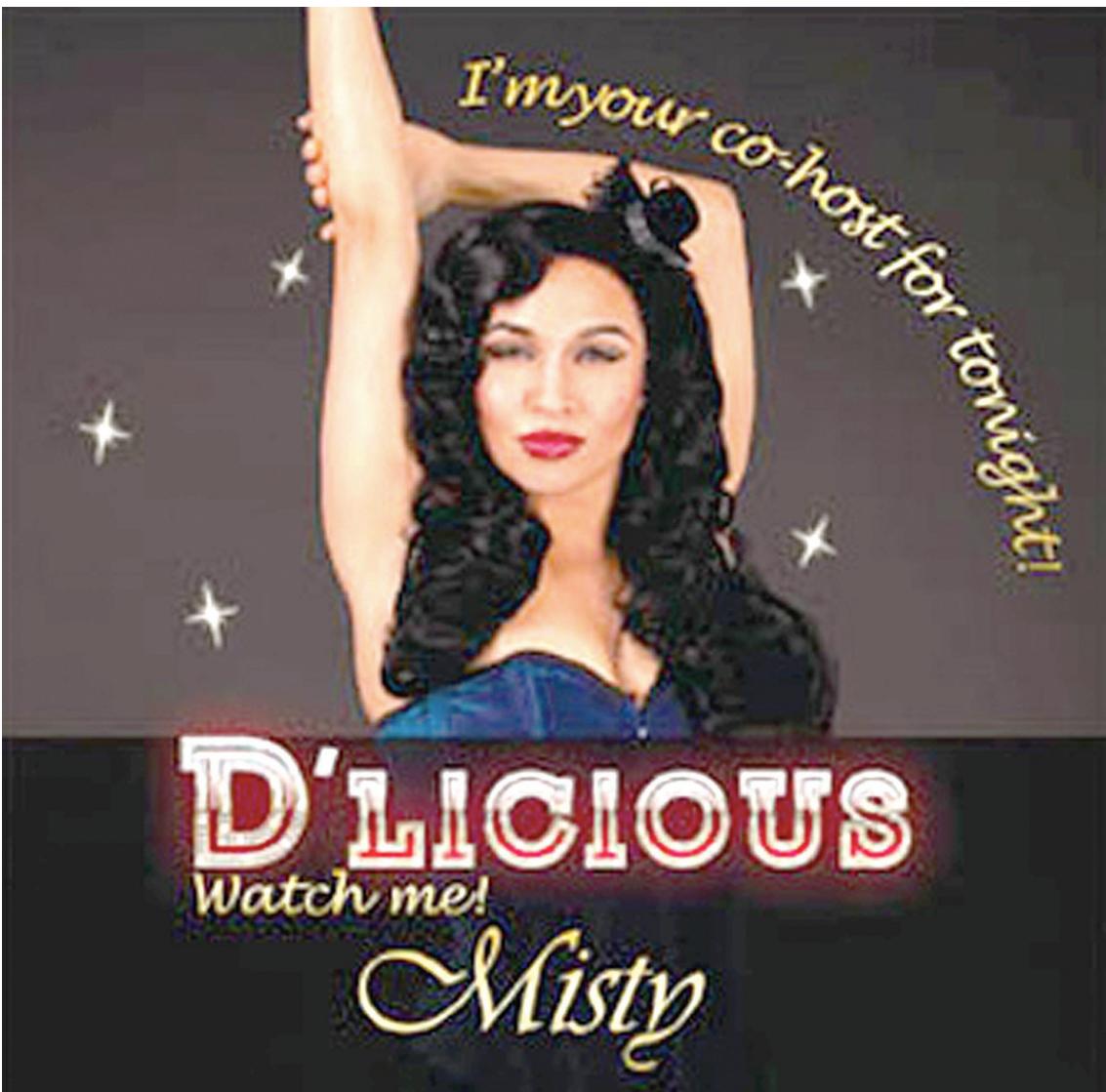
Mr. Croes is part of the jury and will accompany Miss Aruba / Miss Divi Divi International 2009 Miss. Carol Bruyning. According to comments from Mr. Alex Molina, who is the president of the commission of Miss Zona Libre Paraguana states that this will be a very lucrative event, focusing on very positive media coverage for Aruba. This is

a great promotion for Aruba and a very encouraging for the visiting representative of Aruba confirming our stable market and government. Pictured is Mr. Ricardo Croes accompanied by Miss Aruba & also Miss Zona Libre Paraguana 2009 at the event at the Rio Hacha Colombia. □



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Wednesday morning is Ladies doubles all levels.

Wednesday night is for Fun Men, Intermediate men & Mix doubles.

Thursday night is reserved for Advanced & Pro Mendoubles.

The competition starts @ 6pm and the last matches will be played @ 9pm.

If you haven't already done so, register now for the new weekly competition.

Registration closes Friday August 6!

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Chanel's New J12 Marine arrives at Gandelman Jewelers



ORANJESTAD - It was bound to happen, it was inevitable. One day the J12 was going to return to its natural habitat: the immensity of the sea, the force of oceans. Inspired from birth by maritime symbols,

the J12 is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year by stating its identity as an authentic diving watch. With three versions and two sizes, this new J12 Marine asserts its thoroughbred nature

without conceding anything to aesthetics. Without losing one jot of the stylistic design that has made it so successful, the J12 Marine is thus setting out to conquer new territory: the depths.

The J12 Marine is a true mix in all senses of the word. It keeps its sport-chic look on the water thanks to a shot-peened high-tech ceramic (black version) or polished (white version) case and a sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating, blue for the black version and colorless for the white version. Underwater, it adapts to the elements and becomes an irrefutable diver. Resistant to a pressure equivalent to a depth of 300 meters, it has a screw-in crown in protected steel,

with ceramic cabochon and shoulders. For the first time, this J12 of the ocean depths is hemmed with a blue high-tech ceramic bezel, making it powerful and refined. Like the bezel, the second and minute hands are coated with ocean-blue ceramic, as if time should only flow with the current.

Designed for those who love the sea, the J12 marine possesses all the attributes of a professional diving watch: toothed, unidirectional, revolving bezel fitted with sapphire disc (white version) graduated to 60 minutes for accurate reading of the diving time, luminescent raised hands, index and figure 12 for perfect readability in the darkness and a pierced, matt rubber strap to let the water

through easily.

The new J12 naturally maintains the DNA of the original design which gave the J12 its status as one of the most iconic watches of the 21st century. The amphibious robustness of its strap, composite rubber highly resistant to water, shocks, scratches and ultraviolet rays, is somewhat reminiscent of the inflexible solidity of the ceramics in the classic version. Black or white, lacquered dial, self-winding mechanical Swiss movement, the J12 is still a J12: practical, accurate, harshly simple, like the men's watches that Miss Chanel liked to borrow from her lovers.

The New J12 Marine is Exclusively Available at Gandelman Royal Plaza. □

Rough Seas Ahead For Cruise Lines



Cruise stocks were lifted in July by the rising tide of broad market exuberance and earnings power. The potential for a retracement, combined with building technical resistance, may force cruise

stocks to re-chart their course. The world's largest cruise line operator, Carnival Corporation & plc, has seen smooth sailing this summer. Since July 1, Carnival is up more than 17 percent, and is outpacing the

market with an 11.4 percent year-to-date gain. Carnival's stochastics near 90 are well into overbought territory and the stock is trading at a 5.4 percent premium to the 20-day exponential moving average. A move from the current price of \$35.58 to the last strong volume close of \$33.67 occurring on July 22 could happen if the stock turns over.

Carnival had wind in the sales last quarter, posting revenues of \$3.2 billion, up from \$2.9 billion in the same period last year. Moreover, Carnival was able to hedge both higher year-over-year fuel prices (up 64 percent to \$498 per metric ton) and currency fluctuations with stringent cost controls

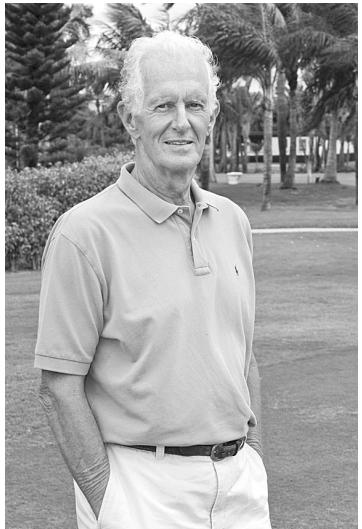
and increased fees. But crude broached \$81 per barrel on August 2; rising oil prices makes managing both energy costs and currency volatility increasingly difficult.

Miami-based Royal Caribbean Cruise is in the same boat as Carnival, trading in what appears to be severely overbought regions. Royal Caribbean slashed costs at a manic pace over the past year to return to profitability, and having done so the stock has nearly doubled the performance of Carnival since July 1 (up 29 percent, aided by a comparably rosier 2010 forecast in the wake of the second quarter earnings beat). The upbeat outlook sets the

bar very high, versus the more conservative forecast from Carnival.

Coasting past the first half of 2010 thanks to rigid expense reductions, cruise stocks have been well worth the ride until now. However, there's growing evidence that travelers might not be willing to pay premium pricing for amenities that these stocks so desperately need to fuel earnings and stock growth. Additionally, BP's oil spill is becoming an enduring complication for cruise lines operating in the Gulf region. Over the next few days, technical turbulence may be the biggest headwind for Carnival and Royal Caribbean with the price chart suggesting a reversal. □

Discover Aruba's Sister Island "Caribbean's hidden treasure"



Jack Marshall

CURACAO - The Web site of the Curaçao Tourist Board urges travelers to "discover the Caribbean's hidden treasure," which is another way of acknowledging that this small island nation was late to the tourism business.

Jack Marshall is determined to correct that.

Marshall, whose fingerprints are all over some of America's most iconic resorts, has spent much of the past decade conceptualizing and developing Santa Barbara Plantation, a gated 1,500-acre property on the southeastern coast of this Caribbean refuge. The resort, which is buffeted by the Caribbean Sea and a bay known as the Spanish Waters, has nearly 11 miles of waterfront. About a half-mile of the Caribbean greets guests of the new Hyatt Regency rather dauntingly as they play the first two holes of the recently opened Old Quarry Golf Course, a Pete Dye design.

For Marshall, who seemingly has seen it all in his career developing property, the site was a revelation when he first toured it 10 years ago.



"I didn't think there was anything like this left in the Caribbean," Marshall says. Marshall, 73, has one of the gaudier résumés in the resort industry, having developed Elkhorn in Sun Valley, Idaho, before moving on to Pebble Beach, where he oversaw the expansion of the Lodge and the creation of Poppy Hills Golf Course and Spanish Bay Resort. Later, while running Vail Associates, he oversaw development of the 3,000-acre Beaver Creek resort community.

Santa Barbara Plantation appealed to Marshall not just because of the property's location and natural assets, but because it allowed him to do what he most enjoys — develop land — rather than dealing with administrative matters, which occupied much of his time while running large companies.

After finishing the master plan eight years ago, Marshall set out to find financing for the project. Santa Barbara Plantation has benefited immensely from government

support. The Netherlands Antilles government pitched in \$28 million to pay for construction of the Hyatt. The Curaçao government kicked in another \$16 million, which covered almost the entire cost of the golf course, and a government-owned utility company spent \$25 million installing underground power on the property.

(The Netherlands Antilles, a collection of Dutch islands that are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is scheduled to be disbanded Oct. 10.)

Marshall says the island government also is beefing up its tourism advertising and marketing.

Curaçao is located about 35 miles off the northern coast of Venezuela and is the largest of the ABC islands — the others being Aruba and Bonaire — of the Lesser Antilles. While the effort to attract tourists is relatively new, Curaçao long has been an important international business destination.

The Dutch first occupied Curaçao in 1634 and have

controlled the island since 1815. That influence is immediately evident in the colorful colonial architecture that lines the harbor of the picturesque capital of Willemstad.

When oil was discovered in Venezuela a century ago, Royal Dutch Shell built a large refinery on the island.

(It remains in use, but now is leased to the Venezuelan government.) More Dutch companies sought refuge during World War II, and Curaçao's low-tax policies also made it a key offshore financial center for U.S. companies. In June 1987, however, the U.S. announced it would cancel a tax treaty with the Antilles that had made Curaçao an attractive corporate tax haven. Almost overnight, that corporate business moved to other outposts in the Caribbean or British Virgin Islands with friendlier business and tax climates. For more than two decades, Curaçao has been scrambling to recover.

Tourism was a natural choice to fill the void left by the offshore banking business. Curaçao benefits from the fact that it sits outside of the hurricane belt and averages only 22 inches of rain annually.

While it's not wet, it is windy. That's particularly evident on Old Quarry's opening ocean

holes, where a strong northeast wind can push mis-hit tee shots out to sea. The terrain changes dramatically as the course turns inward toward the bay and Tafelberg — literally, "table top" — the working quarry that gave the course its name.

Tafelberg dramatically frames the tee shot on No. 4, which gives way to a marvelous stretch of holes, including the reachable, par-5 fifth, the potentially drivable sixth, the dainty, bayside par-3 seventh and another reachable par 5. Old Quarry's lone obvious weak link is its closing hole, which sits handsomely near the marina, but with a green that efficiently repels approaches. Dye might want a mulligan on that hole.

A second golf course is in the pipeline, but likely is at least two years from being developed. Marshall believes that will be necessary to create the critical mass that will attract golfers.

Marshall, who lives on the property, says he benefits from a much more favorable real estate climate than many other destinations, and that he has a pricing advantage over other Caribbean islands.

"The Caribbean is not suffering like the U.S. is, Europe is not suffering like the U.S. is, and South America certainly is not," he says.

Early on, Marshall says, real estate sales have come primarily from residents of Holland and Belgium, while resort visitors have tended to be Dutch. He'd like to intercept some of the American tourists who traditionally have gone to Aruba, just to the south of Curaçao, and draw a mix of customers from the U.S., South America and Europe.

In April, tourism from North America rose 51 percent over April 2009. But, he says, "The reports that I've read are that the growth markets for visitors would be Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil and Europe."

Thunderstorms Nearing Caribbean Sea May Develop Into Tropical Depression

A weather system nearing the southeastern Caribbean has a 90 percent chance of strengthening into a tropical depression, the National Hurricane Center said.

Showers and heavy rains 1,050 miles (1,700 kilometers) west-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands that are moving west-northwest at 10-15 miles an hour have a "high chance" of developing into a tropical cyclone in the next two days, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said today. Tropical cyclones are rotating

systems that include depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. A second system, a tropical wave crossing the Atlantic coasts of Nicaragua and Honduras this morning in the western Caribbean, has almost no chance of becoming a tropical cyclone within 48 hours, the Hurricane Center in Miami also said. It may eventually move into the Pacific from there. Neither system is close to the Gulf of Mexico, where BP is trying to clean up the worst oil spill in U.S. history. □

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HUMAN HINTS

Guilt Release - Dissolve Your Mental Prison

Our inability to forgive ourselves is one of the main obstacles we face as Evolving Humans. Guilt can completely eliminate our growth and as life progresses, we accumulate more and more of the emotional quicksand. We naturally accumulate guilt as our lives progress. If we don't know how to use it and properly release it, our guilt will become a stagnant pond of virus.

We feel responsible for our actions, so when things

don't go well, we feel guilty. We hesitate the next time a similar situation arises. If we let it, guilt can freeze our action, so it is important to understand this crippling force. We must learn to release our guilt and forgive ourselves for things we did in the past. We were not the same people back then. Our past selves are vastly different than who we are in the present. We were under different external forces in life, different internal hormonal forces, and at a different stage of personal

development. It is over now. Only the present can change the past and define the future.

If you've done things that make you ashamed, act differently in the present. Your actions in every Now Moment can change the past. The physical events of the past will not change, but the energy behind past events is completely malleable. Your present energy patterns alter the energy of your past. You change your past by changing your Now. Let go of regret by acting differently.

feel guilty. Remember that you've done the best you could with the resources you had in every moment. That is all anyone can ever do. If your actions brought pain to yourself or others, it is not from a lack on your part. Even if you let a valuable thing die, you were still making decisions based on who you were, the forces you were under and the tools you were working with at the time. We do the best we can and we move on.

your free will free.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

HumanHints.com, PO Box 997, Vail, CO 81658
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Think of it this way. Whoever you hurt in the past, sacrificed them selves to teach you a lesson. If you learn the lesson, you will now bestow good energy onto those who need it. The good energy from the lesson learned negates the bad energy you once inflicted in order to learn the lesson.

Everyone feels guilt and regret, especially as we get older. Even when we don't mean any harm, life gives us abundant opportunity to

the prison dissolves when we learn to forgive ourselves. Forgiving your self will release your guilt, which will allow you complete freedom of expression. Unhindered by fear, you will move freely as you wish. Guilt imprisons your free will. When you release your guilt, you set



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daily: 12:15 - 3:15 **PG**

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A culinary feast with a twist

Taste the World in 80 days at Pam Pam Restaurant

BUBALI - Although Gulliver traveled around the world in 90 days, Pam Pam Restaurant is beating him to it a few hundred years later. The elegant restaurant offers the culinary highlights of different countries without you having to hop on and off planes, combat jet lag or losing your luggage. A journey of culinary perfection lies in wait for you: chef Ludwich Samson and his team will prepare an adventure of flavors that hail from Italy, France, the Mediterranean and the Far East.

Adventurous guests can fill out a passport at Pam Pam. The passport has four pages with four three-course menus, all reduced in price. The deal with the Taste the World in 80 days is that guests, who have tried all four menus in a time period of 80 days, will get 50 percent off their cheque at their last dinner.

To give a sneak peak at the four menus, we start off with Italy, where a Pam Pam salad or ravioli is followed by a veal shank ossobuco or a chicken Parmigiana. Dessert is tiramisu. On to France, where

a traditional onion soup or escargots bourguignon are served as appetizers; twin tournedos or sushi grade tuna is next and dessert is banana crème brûlée. The Mediterranean dinner starts off with a spinach salad or grilled pita bread with tapenade and tsaziki, followed by a lamb souvlaki or Mediterranean shrimps. Pistachio chocolate mousse is the crowning glory of this menu. The final option is the Far East, which beckons with a tuna sashimi and beef tataki or lemon grass coconut soup. The main course is teriyaki plum glazed salmon or five spice pork tenderloin. A ginger sorbet is the refreshing finale of this superb dinner.

Pam Pam Restaurant can be found at the Perle d'Or complex in Bubali. Its fine dining and elegant setting is carving out a name for itself in the upscale restaurant business on Aruba, so if you have not tried Pam Pam yet, it is high time to do so. Taste the World is an excellent opportunity to put this lovely restaurant to the test. Enjoy! □



More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Located on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh under-the-stars approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp



bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$8 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$13. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Opening Hours:

Dinner 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM

For more information or reservations please call Tel: (297) 586-8470

www.casatuaaruba.com



Super Happy Birthday for Willie Panopio of Paradise Beach Villas



members gave him a surprise party in the resort led by Mr. Frank Tomaselli who is fondly called by all "Mayor". Another photo from 2005 with the so loved by PBV members, they gave him a 2nd surprise party again after 5 years. In 2010, another 5 years has passed, on his 55th Birthday Party, Willie and his wife Owen held a fabulous event in their home organized by his wife Owen with the help of their very close friends and her Kids Club. All PBV WEEK 30 members who organized the previous birthday parties were present, staff of PBV, and very close friends of the couple. Everybody really had fun with lots of surprise songs and dancing from friends' kids.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



BUBALI – Everyone loves Willy! Especially on his birthday where he and his wife and family invited friends for a special all you can eat party at their lovely home on Aruba. Willie Panopio is the Pool & Beach

Supervisor at Paradise Beach Villas (PBV) and celebrated his 55th birthday on the 29th of July at their home at Cunucu Abao 104. Lots of food, fun, music and friends were to be had on this Sunday evening in honor of everyone's dear friend Willie.

Besides the photos attached to this article about the great fun at Willie's Birthday Party, several extra photos can be seen from the event in 2000 where Paradise Beach Villas Timeshare



Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

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the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest will yours! Enjoy live entertainment square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

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Aqua Grill...“the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers,” Fodor’s Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh

seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond.

In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's

largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. □



Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a series of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



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Adult stem cell research far ahead of embryonic

By MALCOLM RITTER,
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK – A few months ago, Dr. Thomas Einhorn was treating a patient with a broken ankle that wouldn't heal, even with multiple surgeries. So he sought help from the man's own body.

Einhorn drew bone marrow from the man's pelvic bone with a needle, condensed it to about four teaspoons of rich red liquid, and injected that into his ankle.

Four months later the ankle was healed. Einhorn, chairman of orthopedic surgery at Boston University Medical Center, credits "adult" stem cells in the marrow injection. He tried it because of published research from France.

Einhorn's experience isn't a rigorous study. But it's an example of many innovative therapies doctors are studying with adult stem cells. Those are stem cells typically taken from bone marrow and blood — not embryos.

For all the emotional debate that began about a decade ago on allowing the use of embryonic stem cells, it's adult stem cells that are in human testing today. An extensive review of stem cell projects and interviews with two dozen experts reveal a wide range of potential treatments.

Adult stem cells are being studied in people who suffer from multiple sclerosis, heart attacks and diabetes. Some early results suggest stem cells can help some patients avoid leg amputation. Recently, researchers reported that they restored vision to patients whose eyes were damaged by chemicals.

Apart from these efforts, transplants of adult stem cells have become a standard lifesaving therapy for perhaps hundreds of thousands of people with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases.

"That's really one of the great success stories of stem cell biology that gives us all hope," says Dr. David Scadden of Harvard, who notes stem cells are also used to grow skin grafts.

"If we can recreate that success in other tissues, what

can we possibly imagine for other people?"

That sort of promise has long been held out for embryonic stem cells, which were first isolated and grown in a lab dish in 1998. Controversy over their use surrounded the 2001 decision by former President George W. Bush to allow only restricted federal funding for studying them.

Proponents over the past decade have included former first lady Nancy Reagan and actors Michael J. Fox and the late Christopher Reeve. Opponents object that human embryos have to be destroyed to harvest the cells.

Embryonic cells may indeed be used someday to grow replacement tissue or therapeutic material for diseases like Parkinson's or diabetes. Just on Friday, a biotech company said it was going ahead with an initial safety study in spinal cord injury patients. Another is planning an initial study in eye disease patients later this year.

But in the near term, embryonic stem cells are more likely to pay off as lab tools, for learning about the roots of disease and screening potential drugs.

Observers say they're not surprised at the pace of progress.

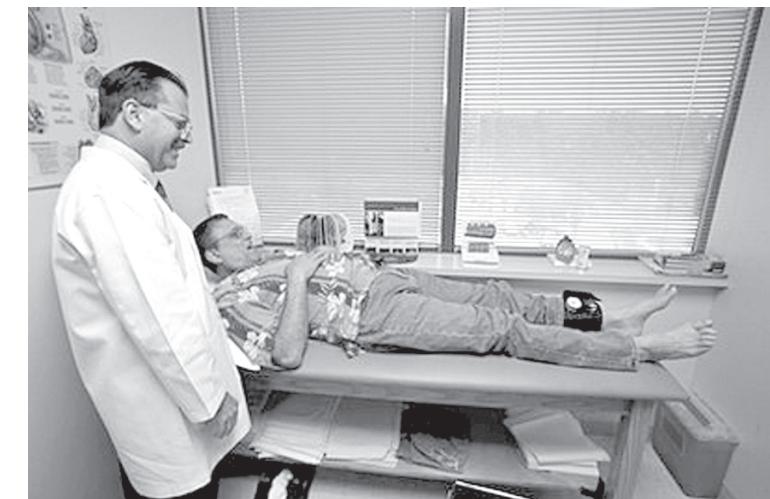
As medical research goes, the roughly 10 years since the embryonic cells were

discovered "is actually a very short amount of time," said Amy Rick, immediate past president of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research. The group has pushed for embryonic stem cell research for about that long.

Hank Greely, a Stanford University law professor who works in bioethics and has followed stem cells since the 1990s, said: "Give it another five years and I'll be surprised if we don't have some substantial progress" beyond initial safety studies.

The Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to oppose embryonic work. Deirdre McQuade, an official there, said that compared to adult stem cell research, work on embryonic cells is proving "fruitless."

Adult cells have been transplanted routinely for decades, first in bone marrow transplants and then in procedures that transfer just the cells. Doctors recover the cells from the marrow or bloodstream of a patient or a donor, and infuse them as part of the treatment for leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases. Tens of thousands of people are saved each year by such procedures, experts say. But it is harnessing these cells for other diseases that has encouraged many scientists lately.



In this photo taken July 26, 2010, Dr. Gabriel Lasala talks with his patient Rodney Schoenhardt of Metairie, La. during a check up in Covington, La. Mr. Schoenhardt has regenerated tissue on his foot since receiving a TCA Cellular Therapy Treatment from Dr. Lasala.

(AP Photo/Derrick E. Hingle)

In June, for example, researchers reported they had restored vision to people whose eyes were damaged from caustic chemicals. Stem cells from each patient's healthy eye were grown and multiplied in the lab and transplanted into the damaged eye, where they grew into healthy corneal tissue. A couple of months earlier, the Vatican announced it was funding adult stem cell research on the intestine at the University of Maryland. And on Friday, Italian doctors said they'd transplanted two windpipes injected with the recipients' own stem cells. But these developments only hint at what's being explored in experiments across the United States.

Much of the work is early, and

even as experts speak of its promise, they ask for patience and warn against clinics that aggressively market stem-cell cures without scientific backing. Some of the new approaches, like the long-proven treatments, are based on the idea that stem cells can turn into other cells. Einhorn said the ankle-repair technique, for example, apparently works because of cells that turn into bone and blood vessels. But for other uses, scientists say they're harnessing the apparent abilities of adult stem cells to stimulate tissue repair, or to suppress the immune system.

"That gives adult stem cells really a very interesting and potent quality that embryonic stem cells don't have," says Rocky Tuan of the University of Pittsburgh. □

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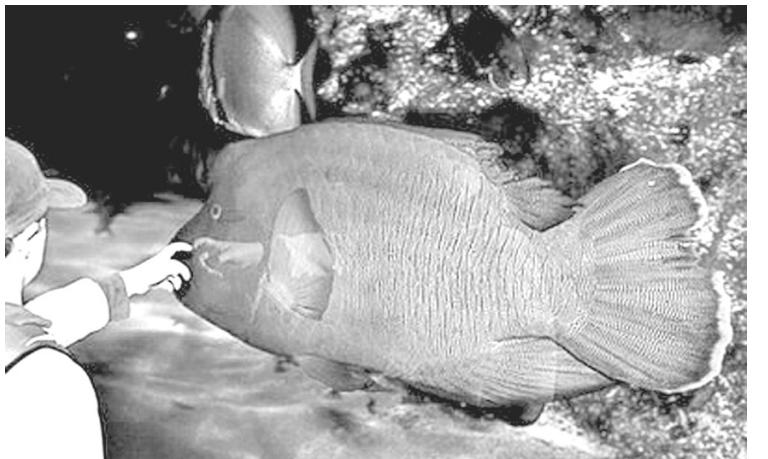


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US says it's committed to cutting greenhouse gases



A schoolboy reaches out to touch a Humpheaded Maori Wrasse as it swims past in the world's largest Great Barrier Reef exhibit at the Sydney Aquarium, in 2003. Australia and Japan boast some of the planet's most diverse oceans but thousands of organisms remain unknown to science and global warming is a huge marine peril, a major new census says.

(AFP/File/Greg Wood)

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By ARTHUR MAX,
Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM — The United States assured international negotiators Monday it remains committed to reducing carbon emissions over the next 10 years, despite the collapse of efforts to legislate a climate bill.

U.S. delegate Jonathan Pershing told a climate conference in Bonn, Germany, Washington is not backing away from President Barack Obama's pledge to cut emissions 17 percent from 2005 levels.

Pershing said legislation is the preferred way to control greenhouse gases, but the administration "will use all the tools available" to reach its target.

Obama made the pledge at a climate summit in Copenhagen last December, and affirmed it in a formal note to the U.N. climate secretariat. At the time, the U.S. House of Representatives had passed a climate bill and the Senate had been broadly expected to follow suit.

But the withdrawal of a scaled down climate bill last week in the Senate raised concern about America's commitment to fight global warming and disappointed developing countries that had hoped Obama would seize international leadership on the issue.

The European Union said the failure of the bill encumbered its talks among its own 27 member states on whether the EU should increase its pledge to rein in the gases blamed for global warming.

"It hasn't made the discussion and the debate any easier in Europe," Artur Runge-Metzger, the European Commissioner for climate change.

The EU has promised to cut emissions by 20 percent below 1990 over the next decade, but said it would raise its target to 30 percent if the U.S. and other major polluters adopt similarly tough goals.

Delegations from 178 countries began five days of work Monday, resuming painstaking discussions on an agreement to limit global emissions and prepare poor countries for the effects of a warming world.

Delegates pointed to the lethal floods in Pakistan as an example of the extreme weather events that scientists say will become more common as average temperatures rise.

As if to underscore the global warming threat, U.N. officials lifted the coat-and-tie rules for the week, citing soaring temperatures in Bonn and a desire to lower the air conditioning to reduce the conference's emissions.

One more round of talks is scheduled in Tianjin, China, in October before the next major climate conference Nov. 29-Dec 10 in Cancun, Mexico.

Acknowledging widespread concern over the U.S. position, Pershing said many delegates had asked him about the status of its pledge and the chances of a deal in Cancun.

"Success in Cancun does not hinge on U.S. legislation," he told some 3,000 delegates, businessmen and activists attending the talks.

Environmental groups warned that the setback in Washington should not deter other countries, and called on the EU to take the lead.

"Parties should not allow U.S. domestic politics to lower the overall level of ambition of an international agreement," said Manuel Oliva, of Conservation International.

A study by World Resources Institute said the Obama administration could reach the 17 percent goal without passing a sweeping climate bill by using existing powers, including those of the Environmental Protection Agency; by issuing new regulations and executive orders; and through piecemeal energy legislation, Oliva said.

The talks in Bonn and Tianjin aim to prepare a successor agreement to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which calls on industrial countries to reduce emissions but makes no demands of developing countries like China and India, which are now among the largest polluters.

The United States rejected Kyoto as imbalanced and unfair, but said it will join a new climate regime as long as it is "symmetrical," encompassing all major emitters.

The emissions-controlling terms of the Kyoto accord expire in 2012, a deadline that has delegates worried about leaving a vacuum unless a new agreement is in place — the so-called Kyoto gap.

Negotiations have stumbled along for 2 1/2 years. The original intention was to seal an agreement in Copenhagen, but that summit of 120 world leaders in the Danish capital only managed to agree on a brief political statement of intentions.

The top U.N. climate official, Christiana Figueres, said it may be unnecessary to complete a full agreement in Cancun. It was up to the countries to decide whether they want to make it legally binding or a series of less enforceable decisions.

But she said by the Cancun conference begins wealthy countries should have made the first payment of a \$30 billion three-year promise of emergency climate funds to poor countries.

"Developing nations see the allocation of this money as a critical signal that industrialized nations are committed to progress in the broader negotiations," said Figueres. □

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John Chemaly Sr.

Managing Director
John A. Chemaly Jr.

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Editor -in-Chief
Julia C. Renfro

Contributing Editors
Angela Muzenhofer
Dilma Arends

International Editor
Richard Brooks

Sales Team
Elly Erasmus
Marijke Croes
Wendy Kelkboom
Page Designer
Dina Maria

Advertising Coordinator
Sandra Loefstop-Duarte
aviso@bondia.com
bondia.aruba@gmail.com

BUSTED.



Price for a potential Israeli strike on Iran? A Palestinian state.

By Andy Zelleke,

Cambridge, Mass.; and Tokyo – Against the backdrop of new sanctions on Iran and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's upbeat Oval Office visit in July, neither Washington nor Jerusalem can be eager to add another war to the long list of hot and warm conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Korea, and Gaza. But with the American intelligence community judging Iran to be on track to have nuclear weapons within two years, a clash with Tehran may soon be deemed unavoidable – in Jerusalem, if not in Washington.

Even if undertaken solely by Israel, a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities poses considerable risks to American interests. That's why the White House should insist that an Israeli strike – if it happens – doesn't merely weaken Tehran's capabilities, but also entails a decisive breaking of the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate.

While the Obama administration hasn't ruled out direct US military action against Iran, the United States would rather focus its energies on the overflowing plate of challenges it already faces, at home and abroad. And the American electorate has little enthusiasm for another war after almost nine years in Afghanistan and more than seven years in Iraq.

A threat deemed unacceptable

But it's almost impossible to imagine Jerusalem accepting a nuclear-armed Iran.

If tougher economic sanctions aren't seen very soon to be doing the job, then military force seems likely. Israel's Likud government, with support from other political parties, has publicly declared a nuclear Iran to be an intolerable existential threat.

And since its creation, Israel has demonstrated an inclination to follow up on its warnings to its enemies even if its own collateral costs are severe.

The gravity of the threat that the Israelis perceive in a nuclear Iran – particularly one with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president – means

that simply forbidding a military strike is not one of the Obama administration's options. Washington may have had the power to dictate to Israel (as well as Britain and France) to end the Suez crisis some five decades ago, but the evolution of domestic politics since Eisenhower's days has diminished US leverage over Israel. And Israel in 1956 was a poor third-world country, whereas today it is a self-confident, wealthy, high-tech economy.

Even if it can't forbid an Israeli strike, the US could publicly dissent. But if the Israelis were to attack Iran despite Washington's express objection, the closeness of the bilateral relationship would render the US vulnerable to the same blowback as if it had been an enthusiastic backer.

A grand bargain

Thus, if military conflict with Iran is where the region is headed, it's essential that the Obama administration craft a strategy promising much more than the destruction of (probably some but not all) Iranian nuclear assets.

The US should insist that a military strike by its close ally be part of a broader "grand bargain" that also finally resolves the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While this continuing conflict is not the only source of violence in the region, ending it is a strategic imperative that will do much for US and allied interests in Southwest Asia and beyond.

The essence of this "grand bargain" is that the US would greenlight an Israeli strike against Iranian nuclear facilities designed to remove the single threat the Israelis most fear.

But Washington's price for this would be the Netanyahu government's ironclad commitment to a peace deal with the Arabs on US-endorsed terms: not the continued freezing of settlement activity, not the resumption of direct talks; rather, a substantive deal (contingent only on the acceptance of these terms by the Palestinians and the other Arab governments).

We don't presume to specify here every material term of that deal. But it would undoubtedly

include a return to the pre-1967 boundaries and the creation of a Palestinian state, with mutually accepted alterations. Other likely terms would include an international security guarantee and peacekeeping presence, as well as Israel's return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

And the US and its allies – primarily the European Union, Japan, and the oil-rich Arab monarchies – would provide tens of billions of dollars to both sides to lubricate the deal; these contributions would finance the relocation of Jewish settlers, provide generous compensation for Palestinian refugees, finance border security, and pay off Syria and Palestinian groups for the loss of their Iranian funding.

Israel and the Palestinians would be offered preferential trade deals with the US and the EU. Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states would establish relations with Israel, open their markets to Israeli goods and services, and end anti-Israeli propaganda.

Not an easy deal

Orchestrating a deal this complex and multifaceted would be challenging, to say the least. It would entail a very tough negotiation, in an already strained relationship, with an Israeli government strongly preferring to keep the Iranian problem unlinked to the Palestinian problem.

And, of course, it would be predicated on the viability of a military operation whose success is far from assured but which the US may be unable to stop.

It may turn out that the Iranian nuclear crisis gets resolved peacefully, perhaps as a result of sanctions; or the Netanyahu government may conclude that containing a nuclear Iran is preferable to attacking to prevent it. But with no choice but to prepare for the very real possibility of an Israeli strike against Iran, the White House must insist that any such action, if taken, be embedded in a broader strategy promising dramatic benefits commensurate with the sizable risks. □

En Brasil:

Oposición recurre a política exterior para atacar gobierno

BRASILIA(AP)-El candidato presidencial José Serra convirtió la política exterior del presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva en el principal blanco de sus ataques a un gobierno que goza de índices históricos de popularidad. Con cuidado de no citar a Lula, Serra y sus allegados han focalizado sus críticas al oficialismo en sus relaciones con los gobiernos de izquierda de América Latina, como el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez.

Serra, del Partido de la Social Democracia Brasileña (PSDB), ataca la cercanía con Chávez, las negociaciones con Irán y su presidente Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, y el apoyo a los gobiernos de Bolivia y Paraguay.

En un encuentro reciente con empresarios, Serra acusó al gobierno de "hacer filantropía" con Bolivia y Paraguay por la política de pagar precios preferenciales por la energía que adquiere de esos países.

Más recientemente, vinculó a la candidata del gobernante Partido de los Trabajadores (PT, izquierda), Dilma Rousseff de ser la candidata escogida por Chávez. Rousseff fue escogida por Lula como candidata a sucederlo en las elecciones del 3 de octubre.

"Chávez ya declaró que es 'dilmista', y el PT es chavista",



Dilma Rousseff, candidata del oficialista Partido de los Trabajadores para las elecciones presidenciales de octubre, habla durante una visita al comité olímpico brasileño. Rio de Janeiro, lunes 2 de agosto de 2010. (AP foto/Felipe Dana)

aseguró Serra la semana pasada en una entrevista con la red de televisión Record.

Anteriormente, fue su aspirante a vicepresidente, José Indio da Costa, quien desató una tormenta cuando acusó al PT de tener vínculo con la guerrilla colombiana de las FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) y el narcotráfico. Posteriormente recurrió a la internet para clarificar que el PT no tiene relación con el narcotráfico.

En otros momentos, Serra acusó al gobierno de Bolivia, que mantiene estrechas relaciones con Lula, de complicidad con el narcotráfico y atacó el Mercosur como un

"obstáculo" para la inserción brasileña en el mercado mundial.

"Todo eso está dentro de una línea de Serra de ocupar espacios de la derecha", comentó el analista político Carlos Lopes, de la consultora Santa Fe Ideas. "El gran público no está interesado en política externa, pero es una forma de asegurar el apoyo de un electorado de clase media más conservador".

La estrategia, en su opinión, refleja la dificultad que encara un candidato que debe hacer oposición al presidente más popular de la historia

brasileña.

"Él (Serra) no puede atacar a Lula. Atacar a un presidente con 80% de popularidad es complicado", destacó Lopes a la AP. "Por eso habla mucho del PT y de Dilma (Rousseff), pero no hace referencia a Lula".

La postura de Serra generó respuestas duras del PT, que calificó al ex gobernador de São Paulo y ex ministro de Salud de autoritario y derechista. Pero el candidato opositor no se quedó callado. "Troglodita de derecha es quien apoya a Ahmadinejad, que está allá apedreando mujeres,

que condena a periodista y ahorca a sus opositores", dijo sobre la relación de Lula con el líder iraní.

Marco Aurelio Garcia, asesor internacional de Lula y coordinador de la campaña de Rousseff, es uno de los que ha señalado una tendencia derechizante de Serra, pese a su pasado como dirigente estudiantil de izquierda que debió salir al exilio durante la dictadura militar (1964-1985).

"Da pena ver a una persona que tuvo un pasado de izquierda, como José Serra, correr tanto a la derecha, a aquella derecha rabiosa, atrasada. Parece un final melancólico de su carrera política", dijo la semana pasada Garcia en una entrevista con sitio de internet del PT.

No es la primera vez que Serra tiene que lidiar con un escenario adverso.

En 2002, cuando Lula era candidato presidencial de la oposición, Serra era el aspirante oficialista en momentos que el presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso arrastraba bajos índices de aprobación. Ocho años más tarde, carga con el fardo inverso: ser el aspirante adversario de un presidente altamente popular. □

Bloque Mercosur acuerda libre comercio con Egipto

SAN JUAN, Argentina (Reuters) - Los países del Mercosur firmaron el lunes un acuerdo de libre comercio con Egipto, que abrirá un mercado de 76 millones de consumidores a los productos primarios e industrializados del bloque aduanero sudamericano.

El acuerdo con Egipto es el segundo entendimiento comercial entre Mercosur y un socio extrarregional, al sumarse al pacto ya en vigencia con Israel.

El bloque sudamericano tiene también negociaciones en curso para pactos comerciales con Jordania, Marruecos y los países de Consejo de Cooperación del Golfo, integrado por Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Qatar, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Kuwait y Omán, todos importadores de alimentos. □

Presidente electo de Colombia recibe credencial y alista posesión

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - El presidente electo de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, recibió el lunes la credencial de primer mandatario, cargo que asumirá el próximo sábado con el desafío de recomponer las relaciones con Venezuela e impulsar decisivas reformas sociales para reducir el desempleo y la pobreza. El dirigente político, de 58 años, reemplazará al presidente Alvaro Uribe, quien abandona el cargo después de una gestión de ocho años que se caracterizó por la lucha contra la guerrilla izquierdista y el narcotráfico, que Santos prometió continuar. El político dijo que con la entrega de la credencial por parte de las autoridades

electorales ya se considera formalmente presidente de Colombia.

"Un acto sencillo pero que me compromete enormemente con la institucionalidad (...) y con el pueblo colombiano, recibimos más de nueve millones de votos, un mandato muy claro que nos obliga a cumplirlo", dijo el mandatario electo en el acto de recepción del documento. Santos asumirá el poder el próximo sábado en la histórica Plaza de Bolívar, en el centro de Bogotá, en medio de un fuerte dispositivo de seguridad que incluye patrullajes aéreos y protección con francotiradores, de acuerdo con las Fuerzas Armadas. □



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